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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid on Madrid, 'Israeli Provocations'

NC1311223891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2109 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, returned to Cairo from London tonight following visits to Portugal and the United Kingdom. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid took part in the meetings of the Arab-UK Chambers of Commerce Board and the European-Arab parliamentary associations meetings in Lisbon.

Asked for his assessment of the first stage of the Madrid peace conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the conference is an important step on the road to peace and that the Arab participants expressed their views very clearly.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the conference succeeded in emphasizing the legitimate Arab rights and was important in preparing for the coming phase.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that world public opinion followed the conference closely and that the conference was a historic chance to urge the parties concerned to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his belief that the Arab side is very eager to achieve peace and that the Israeli side should respond to that.

Asked how the Arabs should respond to the repeated Israeli provocations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arabs should not fall into the trap of Israeli provocations.

The Arab League secretary general was asked if he is optimistic about the possibility of resolving the Arab problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He replied by saying that he is optimistic, but in a very guarded way, because the matter still needs further effort and preparation. He said that efforts are being exerted and that the Arab side should hope for the best.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid was asked to comment on yesterday's decision by the Knesset to annex the Syrian Golan to the Israeli territories and on Yitzhaq Shamir's statement that the occupied territories will not be returned and that the state of Palestine does not exist. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Knesset decision is null and void. He added that it must be made clear that the Arab side's land should be restored in full in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Idea of Arab Forces Deployed in Gulf 'Abandoned'

NC1311220591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1922 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—Citing reliable Arab sources, the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR in its Friday [15 November] issue says that the Damascus Declaration countries have abandoned the idea of forming Arab forces to deploy in the Gulf. The reason is that this idea has stirred sensitivities in Gulf countries and Iran. Iran maintains that it has more right to play a role in Gulf security than non-Gulf countries such as Syria and Egypt.

AL-MUSAWWAR cites an Egyptian source as saying that the Damascus Declaration countries meeting, which was held in Cairo this week, served to produce protocols that could be implemented in the near future in various security, political, economic, and media-related fields.

AL-MUSAWWAR says that as the Gulf crisis is increasingly seen as a matter of the past, the eight countries [Gulf Cooperation Council members plus Egypt and Syria] that signed the Damascus Declaration have turned their attention to spontaneous cooperation measures. The eight countries are discussing realistic areas in which cooperation would be beneficial to all the countries involved.

Filali on Arab Maghreb Achievements, Obstacles

LD1311220391 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Abdellatif Filali, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, talked to our television correspondent at the end of the AMU foreign ministers meeting. He assessed the achievements of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] despite the obstacles and problems which it still faces. He said these problems will not be an obstacle to the AMU march. He added:

[Begin Filali recording] I believe that the basic result of this meeting was first: All are aware of these difficulties and obstacles. The important thing is everyone should continue to study these difficulties and obstacles so that we can overcome them.

For this reason, all have agreed that the specialized committees will meet before the end of this month to make a comprehensive assessment of what has to be done concerning them and put forward proposals to define ways or measures to implement the agreements concluded in the past. Also there will be a meeting of the financial and economic committee, with the participation of the ministers of agriculture, to study all the issues of economic and social nature and to prepare a preliminary report. We will meet like this time but in an expanded form to include the ministers of economy and finance next month before the end of the year, God willing, to prepare the report which will be presented by the chairman to the coming summut. The report will give a comprehensive and complete evaluation of the conditions and the reasons or obstacles that we face and the ways or methods that will help arriving at solutions to the problems facing us. [end recording]

Islamic Affairs

ICO To Share Nuclear Technology With Members

BK1311045291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistan has emphasized that member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] should prepare a joint policy on the transfer of nuclear technology so that their energy needs can be fulfilled. This was stated by Federal Minister for Science and Technology Elahi Bux Sumroo while talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday. He said Pakistan is very advanced in science and technology and if the research of institutions were compiled member countries would have many things to exchange among themselves. He expressed the hope that Islamabad ICO conference member countries will cooperate in promoting science and technology. The leaders of the many delegations also appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani Government in promoting science and technology in the Islamic world. In their speeches, they stressed the need to promote scientific and technical manpower, preparing joint programs in mutual sectors, and arranging to provide scientific knowledge and the transfer of technology for development.

The conference participants visited the Pakistan Institute of Science and Technology in Islamabad yesterday. They were informed about the different facilities and their duties.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Spokesman Lists 4 Points for Talks Agenda

PM1411120191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 91 p4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Four Priorities Govern Palestinian Delegation's Agenda for Bilateral Negotiations"]

[Text] Tunis—Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, official in charge of unified Palestinian information and PLO official spokesman, has stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Madrid conference was a decisive turning point and a major step forward toward Palestinian independence after 43 years of absence for the Palestinian people and their just cause. The Madrid conference, he emphasized, was the beginning of a long road, but since we have existed on the political map, we must exist on the geographical map also.

The PLO's official spokesman lauded the Palestinian delegation's good performance at the Madrid conference, describing it as a Palestinian feast with the Palestinian delegation getting the attention of the world media and the states attending the conference, as reflected, in particular, in U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's assertion that "the Palestinian speech was welcomed throughout the world."

'Abd-al-Rahman said that the conference was characterized by positive cooperation among the various Arab parties.

On the results of the Madrid conference, 'Abd-al-Rahman said: "We won the first round, but the road to peace is long and difficult." For the first time in history, he said, a Palestinian delegation sat face to face with an Israeli delegation. He added that the Israelis, who, ostrich-like, had long buried their heads in the sand, finally found themselves face to face with the Palestinian delegation. As one member of the Palestinian delegation said: "At last we are sitting face to face and demanding our rights on the basis of international legitimacy."

On the venue for the resumption of bilateral negotiations, 'Abd-al-Rahman said that most views and positions tend to tip Washington as the next station to enable Baker to follow these negotiations directly and personally. He said the PLO did not object to that venue provided it got the same facilities its delegation was given in Madrid.

He said that the proposed date for the second round of bilateral negotiations was somewhere between 17 and 24 November. The PLO spokesman affirmed that the Palestinian delegation would go to Washington with a clear program and a complete agenda based on implementation of legitimate UN resolutions, especially resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle, and, therefore, fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

He said that the Palestinian delegation's agenda includes the following priorities:

1. An immediate halt to the settlements, before discussion of anything else and before going into any details, because it would be unreasonable to start peace negotiations while Israel continued to build settlements. We insist that suspension of the settlements must be the first point.

2. We believe that the negotiations should not take more than three months to produce agreement on the transitional period—set by U.S. President Bush in his speech at one year. During that period we believe that a provisional Palestinian government should be formed, the occupation authority eliminated, and a program and a timetable set for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

'Abd-al-Rahman emphasized that achievement of agreement on the transitional period would not mean autonomy but a provisional Palestinian government that would replace the occupation authority in all its forms, ranging from the military presence to the presence of the settlements. Without such a program, he said, there would be no room to discuss anything else.

3. Conclusion of peace agreements between the two states: Israel and a Palestinian state.

4. On the question of comprehensive talks between the Arabs and Israel, we believe that Arab-Israeli negotiations could only be started after tangible steps are taken toward implementation of resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

'Abd-al-Rahman commended the positive U.S. position, which is gradually moving toward recognition of Palestinian rights. The United States, the PLO spokesman said, is now convinced that the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be resolved without the creation of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Territories Leaders Comment on Forthcoming Talks

'Ashrawi—Talks 'Deadlocked' Over Venue

PM1311154691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Nov 91 p 4

[Ilyas Nasrallah report: "Washington Has Not Officially Proposed Hosting Bilateral Negotiations; End to Settlements Essential to Continuation of Negotiations"]

[Excerpt] London—In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, denied that the Palestinians have agreed to the resumption of the negotiations in Washington. So far, she said, the U.S. Government has not officially proposed moving the negotiations from Madrid to Washington or Williamsburg.

Speaking by telephone from her home in Ramallah in the West Bank, 'Ashrawi said that the peace talks which began in Madrid were deadlocked because of Israel's intransigent position on seeking to move the negotiations to the Middle East. This, she added, calls for the intervention of the third party, that is, the sponsors of the conference, namely, the United States and the Soviet Union.

'Ashrawi reaffirmed the Palestinian position of preferring Madrid to Washington because of the restrictions imposed by the U.S. Government on Palestinian leaders' entry into the United States and the danger of pressure on members of the Palestinian delegation in Washington from the Zionist lobby, which is very influential in government circles and especially in Congress.

She explained, however, that Washington was one of the options for ending this current crisis over the venue for the negotiations, provided that the steps and circumstances are adapted to enable the Palestinians to sit down and negotiate without pressure.

With regard to changes in the delegation's membership, 'Ashrawi said that "the present structure is neither firm nor rigid, and will certainly be amended in line with the dictates of the next phase or the phases of the negotiations which will require experts in specific fields when details are discussed in the future."

'Ashrawi pointed out that in the present composition of the delegation, the aspect of representation of all sectors of the Palestinian people was taken into consideration and the delegation indeed won the confidence of the vast majority of the Palestinian people; but the next phase will require the addition of some members to the delegation on the basis of technical, not political, considerations.

She added: "In the end the decision on this matter will not be an individual or a group decision. It will certainly be a collective national decision."

With regard to the names of the delegation members likely to be changed, 'Ashrawi said: "So far there has been no discussion of specific names. As is known, this is not a decision for the people inside [the occupied territory] alone."

Yesterday Hanan 'Ashrawi again urged a halt to the Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. At a press conference held jointly with Faysal al-Husayni in East Jerusalem, she said that "an end to settlements is essential if Israel wants to show that it really wants peace." [passage omitted]

Frayj—'Complex, Exciting' Talks Anticipated

TA1311152391 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 Nov 91 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem mayor and Palestinian delegation member at Madrid peace conference, by Hashim al-'Azza in Bethlehem; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-'Azza] Will the peace talks currently under way be worthwhile for the Palestinian people? What is the expected final outcome of these negotiations?

[Frayj] The conference in which I took part under the sponsorship of the United States and the Soviet Union, and with the participation of representatives of most countries of the world and the Arab states, was a historic conference convened to discuss ways of solving the deap-seated differences in the Middle East and to find peaceful solutions for the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on international legitimacy, the land for peace principle, and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

The meeting in Madrid was the first step in a 1,000-mile march. I expect the negotiations to be difficult, complex, and exciting. The Palestinian delegation is determined to work to find a just solution that ensures the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

[Al-'Azza] Do you expect a permanent halt to settlement activity? What is the anticipated scenario for the fate of the present settlements in the West Bank and Gaza

Strip? How will the Palestinians' right to repatriation be interpreted so that the conference may succeed?

[Frayj] The Palestinian delegation raised several issues in the meeting with the Israeli side, foremost of which was the settlement issue, as well as other important topics relating to the daily lives of the residents. I believe that the dialogue will be resumed at the end of this month. We cannot provide the Israelis with details that may be used against us, especially the scenarios for settlements.

[Al-'Azza] During your meetings with the Israeli delegation, did you sense any change in the Israelis' view of us as "terrorists?"

[Frayj] This conference was the first time the Palestinian people took part in a peace conference on such a level. They had official representatives and the head of the Palestinian delegation was given an opportunity equal to that of the heads of other delegations. In my opinion, the most important result was that the world recognized the existence of the Palestinian people. The entire world realized that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are territories occupied by the Israelis, and not Israeli land as they claim.

Moreover, the world acknowledged that Jordan is not Palestine and that the Palestinian people have historic, political, and national rights over the land of Palestine. The claims that the Palestinian people do not want peace and that only the Israeli side is in favor of peace were refuted. The conclusion drawn by the participants in the conference was that the Palestinian delegation proved effectively to the world that the Palestinians are peace-loving people who favor peaceful coexistence, wish to live in security and stability, raise the olive branch as a peace slogan, and want to achieve peace with the Israeli side, so that each people will live within internationally recognized borders, in goodneighborly relations, security, and peace.

Sha'th—'International Reason' for U.S. Stance

*PM1311152291 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
9 Nov 91 p 5*

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee member, by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Allam] There is talk now about coordination among the Arab parties participating in the conference. What is the future of coordination and what were its characteristics and most notable results in Madrid?

[Sha'th] What is proposed is a return to meetings such as those held in Damascus before the conference (24 November) which included the foreign ministers of the frontline states together with Saudi Arabia and Morocco. There is talk about the possibility of their being at summit level. But they will be held at foreign minister level at least. There is continuing Arab coordination about the next stage.

In Madrid the Palestinians worked to facilitate procedures and to resolve problems in order for the Syrian delegation to begin its negotiations on the same day the Palestinian delegation began its negotiations. We insisted to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that bilateral meetings be held at the same time. And it was we who presented the argument to Baker, and he accepted it by refusing to hold the bilateral talks in Israel and the Arab countries in turn. The argument was the Geneva convention, which stipulates that "an occupation authority cannot meet with an occupied people under occupation." We insisted on remaining in Madrid to begin the bilateral committees' meetings. [passage omitted]

['Allam] With regard to the next bilateral Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, do you not believe that the presence of a Palestinian delegation as part of the Jordanian delegation affects the national identity in any future negotiations on political rights?

[Sha'th] Despite the delicacy and sensitivity of the point that the Palestinian delegation was part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, with the Jordanian brothers' cooperation, the Palestinians appeared independent in both form and substance. And there is the gain of Israeli recognition after the bilateral meetings in Madrid. The next stage will discuss the procedures concerning the transfer of power in a transitional period. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, specified that "we have priorities, the foremost of which is a halt on settlements." [passage omitted]

That gain (Israeli recognition) is a gain first vis-a-vis Israel and second vis-a-vis the United States and the public. It is also a gain which emphasized Palestinian independence through unity. We have always adhered to one line, to our independence in the conference. We insisted on our unity with the Arabs through coordination on a balanced and equal footing, not on the basis of the loss of national independence.

Thus Palestinian independence and the accentuation of national identity were not to the detriment of unity with the Arab delegations or of coordination with them, but to Israel's and the United States' detriment. [passage omitted]

['Allam] Irrespective of when the bilateral meetings resume, what progress do you think they will make?

[Sha'th] In the next bilateral negotiations, which are most likely to be held in the United States, we will talk about settlement, then the total transfer of power to the Palestinian people in the transitional period, and also the need to clarify the political foundations for the final solution.

['Allam] Is there coordination among the Arab parties on the date for the multilateral negotiations.?

[Sha'th] The Americans have been persuaded of the need to postpone them until February. An organizational meeting might be held in December, but these questions will deferred until February.

['Allam] What is the reason for that conviction?

[Sha'th] The reason is the four-month period specified by the United States for the postponement of the guarantees for the $10 billion requested by Israel.

We want to see whether or not the Americans will actually offer the necessary steps and concessions—first and foremost, a halt on the building of settlements—and whether or not the United States will actually punish Israel if it does not halt its settlements. Without answers to this, there can be no progress toward the multilateral negotiations, which concern normalization and long-term relations. I believe that all the Arab parties agree with this. [passage omitted]

How would you assess the U.S. performance at the conference? Can the negotiations with the Israeli delegation be said to have been successful?

[Sha'th] The real dialogue was primarily with the U.S. delegation and with the U.S. public, not with the Israeli delegation. Until the Israelis actually backtrack on their present positions, the negotiations are not with them. We believe that there is an international reason why the Americans are adopting a position that seems at least more convinced—more than ever before—of the justness of the Palestinian argument. It is because they want to achieve stability. [passage omitted]

*Other Leaders Comment on Settlement Framework

PFLP's Habash States Views

92AE0049A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 91 p 5

[Interview With PFLP Secretary General Dr. George Habash by Huda al-Husayni; place and date not given; "Dr. George Habash On Madrid Conference, Just Peace: 'I Am for Peace, Repatriation Right, Jerusalem, and State; We Will Stay Within PLO Framework Through National Council'"]

[Text] Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Secretary General Dr. George Habash has reaffirmed the decision made by the PFLP Political Bureau to freeze the front's membership in the PLO Executive Committee. This reaffirmation was made in an interview AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has conducted with Dr. Habash in this decisive phase of the Palestinian issue's history and at a time when some people are working to split the PFLP ranks, especially in the occupied territories.

There are numerous Palestinian opinions on the conference meeting in Madrid. There are those who support and those who oppose, relying on facts. Because the Arab side's problem is that it doesn't believe that its enemy is very intelligent, very strong, and very well-informed, the shock is great. It is here that the importance of Dr. George Habash surfaces. He relies on scientific confrontation in all issues. Because he is the man with the dissenting opinion in this phase, we have conducted the following interview with him:

[al-Husayni] Are you going to declare the PFLP's withdrawal from the PLO Executive Committee?

[Habash] The truth is that our Political Bureau has made a decision to freeze our membership in the PLO Executive Committee. But announcement of the issue is postponed until the PFLP Central Committee convenes in a few days. Naturally, I find it most likely that the Central Committee will approve the Political Bureau's proposal to freeze membership in the PLO Executive Committee. But I cannot, of course, confirm 100 percent the nature of the decision that will be made by the Central Committee. We may adopt a stronger decision, meaning that we may decide to withdraw and not be content with a freeze. The committee may decide on something else. The entire issue will be in the Central Committee's hands.

[al-Husayni] Might it cancel the freeze decision?

[Habash] It could cancel it, or it may not be content with it and may decide on withdrawal, because there is a big difference between a freeze and withdrawal. A freeze contains the possibility of a return to the Executive Committee in case the conference fails or in case currently unforeseeable developments crop up, whereas withdrawal means practically a resignation, i.e., having our representative in the Executive Committee resign and then raise the issue with the 21st Palestine National Council [PNC] when it convenes.

[al-Husayni] Can you [the PFLP] resign?

[Habash] Of course. What will stop us? This is tantamount to a political stance that we are taking, underlining, and proclaiming to our masses and to the world.

[al-Husayni] Aren't there endeavors to persuade you to stay?

[Habash] Of course, there have been endeavors to persuade us, and they will continue. But the conditions which have developed recently, and on whose basis the conference will be held, have compelled us to freeze our membership, at least.

[al-Husayni] Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has characterized the freeze or withdrawal as an emotional, not a political, expression. Therefore, perhaps this form of expression is prohibited in the revolutionary logic. What do you say?

[Habash] It is the complete opposite. When we find that the Executive Committee, i.e., the PLO official leadership, is following a faulty political line, we cannot continue to shoulder the responsibility for such a fault. In this case, we will stay within the PLO framework, represented by the PNC. But we express our rejection of this political line by freezing our membership in, or by withdrawing from, the Executive Committee.

[al-Husayni] Many wonder what you really seek by your rejection of the conference, why you stand against it, and why you characterize it as dangerous?

[Habash] This conference is intended, in fact, to obstruct the international conference. In this phase, it is possible for us, and we are fully prepared to accept a phased settlement of our Palestinian issue through an international conference—an international conference attended actively by all permanent UN Security Council members and by the UN. The international legitimate authority's [the UN's] resolutions should be the arbiter and the PLO should attend at the same level as all the other participants. The plan of the U.S. secretary of state has come to torpedo the bases of such a conference. The PLO is not present and the conference is not held on the basis of all the international legitimate authority's resolutions. Rather, the United Nations is attending as an observer. This is why we consider it a circumventing of the international conference to which we agreed and which has been accepted by all the UN bodies and institutions.

[al-Husayni] Dr. Habash, you are objecting to the leadership's acceptance of these conditions under these difficult circumstances. But Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian parliament has authorized him to guide the peace process. Secondly, he has asserted that he has the power to make decisions. How can you give him the power to make decisions and then object?

[Habash] This leads us to the nature of the PNC. Generally, the PNCs have not come into existence as a result of elections, and they are not formed on the basis of specific criteria. Allow me [to be frank]. Regrettably, these councils are formed by Yasir 'Arafat. Consequently, it is accepted that the PFLP be represented by 10 percent or 20 percent. When the head of our state forms these councils, he keeps in mind that they should be obedient and should move according to his wish.

It is true that we have Palestinian democracy if we take into account free expression. What I mean is that I can address the PNC or the Central Council with utter freedom and that our head of state cannot jail or detain me. But if we exclude free expression and consider the decision-making method, the manner in which the institutions are formed, and these institutions' method of work, then I am sorry to say that we are not faced with a democratic life and democratic institutions in this case.

[al-Husayni] Proceeding on the basis of democracy, it seems that the future of Palestine and of the Palestinians has been tied to the principles of a democratic process. Abu-Mazin has also said that democracy dictates that the Palestinian minority accept the majority's opinion. Why do you reject the democratic game?

[Habash] Absolutely not. We are fully prepared to seek arbitration from the rules of the democratic game when our PNC is chosen by free election. But in the absence of free elections and of specific criteria on whose basis our PNCs are formed, we must seek arbitration from the people's will and from public opinion before we refer to these institutions for arbitration. I believe that Palestinian public opinion is completely obvious, especially in the diaspora. Everybody is clearly aware of our masses' fear for their cause and for the future of our cause.

[al-Husayni] Those heading to the conference have said that they are going to participate in the hope of achieving a comprehensive peace. You are demanding a just peace. What is the difference between the two, and what is your definition of a just peace, if there is a definition other than what you have mentioned?

[Habash] In a historical sense, it is very difficult for world opinion to understand the question of peace for the Middle East and for the Palestinian issue. What I mean is this:

No real peace can be established in this region for the Palestinian people until this colonialist phenomenon that is called Israel is nullified and ended.

Historical peace will be achieved when normalcy is restored and when Palestine becomes Arab anew, as Syria is Arab, Lebanon is Arab, and Egypt is Arab. Without this, true peace in the historical sense will be impossible to achieve.

But of course, I am not speaking now of peace within this scope. I am speaking of a phased peace based on accomplishing the Palestinian revolution's and the PLO's phased program, meaning the program for a Palestinian state, self-determination, and repatriation. Without accomplishing this program, I cannot—I truly cannot—envision any real peace in this phase.

[al-Husayni] But Dr. Habash, the delegation which represented you in the talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker agreed to self-rule.

[Habash] It did not represent all the Palestinians. There has been disagreement on this issue. When brother Faysal al-Husayni was meeting with Secretary Baker, the PFLP was opposed to those meetings, and it said that we should refrain from such meetings and should tell Baker one thing: If you wish to meet the Palestinians, then the Palestinians are the PLO and this organization's address is Tunisia. All that time, we were not pleased with these meetings. I believe that anybody familiar with the true Palestinian situation in this period knows perfectly well that the line followed by the PLO's executive leadership does not represent the opinion of the majority of the Palestinian masses.

[al-Husayni] You say that your people at home and in the diaspora reject this conference. But in a recent interview with Ilyas Furayj, he said that he first respects and appreciates you, and then added that the Palestinians at home want a solution with any means. What do you say?

[Habash] The Palestinian people are one and united. Any talk about the "Palestinians at home" and to the effect that we "must seek a solution that takes into account the Palestinians at home" is dangerous talk. I believe that any responsible words should deal with the Palestinian people as a single people. This tone is the tone in which Israel speaks. The tone in which the Palestinians and Palestinian masses speak is that the Palestinian people are a single and united peoplem with whom we must deal as a single unit.

[al-Husayni] If the Palestinian people are a single and united people, then the delegation taking part in the conference should represent all the Palestinians at home and in the diaspora.

[Habash] This is why we have insisted very clearly that the delegation be formed from the PLO. This is why we have insisted that the delegation in Madrid now should clearly and openly represent the West Bank Palestinians, Gaza Palestinians, Jerusalem Palestinians, and diaspora Palestinians, so that there would be no vagueness or ambiguity regarding this issue. This is why the concessions began when the PLO leadership agreed to capitulate to the Israeli conditions.

[al-Husayni] Assuming that the conference turns out to be the opposite of what you expect and that it leads to halting settlement construction, to withdrawal, and to proclaiming the state, will you then...

[Habash] I wish, I wish, I wish. I will then be prepared to criticize myself and to say that I have been wrong and that my position has been unscientific and totally unpragmatic. But one can tell about a letter by its address. On the other hand, I hope for good from people and I hope that those who say that the conference will conclude with this and that and such and such, i.e., with accomplishing our objectives—I hope that when the opposite happens, these people will have the courage and will be frank with their masses.

[al-Husayni] Are there contacts between you and some Fatah members who have rebelled against 'Arafat?

[Habash] Who are they?

[al-Husayni] There are those in Fatah who reject 'Arafat's projection.

[Habash] The truth is that we do not deal in this fashion in the Palestinian arena. First, we are eager for the Palestinian people's unity. Second, we are eager for the unity of each organization and we are eager to safeguard the principles and ethics of Palestinian national action. We present our viewpoint in the Palestinian arena frankly and clearly, and hope that the projection of this viewpoint produces beneficial results for the Palestinian revolution and the PLO.

[al-Husayni] And it is on this basis that coordination between the PFLP and the Hamas Movement has been started?

[Habash] This is another issue. In any political position it embraces, it is natural that the PFLP will seek to establish all the alliances compatible with this position. We consider ourselves allied with five Palestinian organizations now. They are all present within the Executive Committee's framework, such as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Palestine National Struggle Front. It is also normal that we would ally ourselves with organizations or factions that embrace the same position, even if they are temporarily outside the PLO Executive Committee.

Fatah Official Comments

924E0049B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 91 p 5

[Article by Khalid al-Hasan: "Historic Moment That Dictates Showing Wisdom; What Is Required Is Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian Confederation in Swiss Style; Jerusalem's Status Can Be Like Status of Basle in Switzerland; Palestinian Refugee Problem Can Be Solved by Repatriation or Compensation"]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee Member Khalid al-Hasan is one of the founders of this organization which is the biggest PLO faction. Khalid al-Hasan is also considered a moderate Fatah figure. He has written the following article as part of the "comprehensive international viewpoint" series to which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has the exclusive rights of publication in Arabic:

[Begin al-Hasan article] The Madrid conference and the process that has led to its convocation are the logical outcome of the emergence of the new balance of power in the world and in the Middle East. I hope that the delegations meeting in the conference will hasten to take the first step toward establishing a dialogue crowned with lasting peace instead of temporary or phased peace. Our first steps toward lasting peace will, in my opinion, be faced with fewer obstacles than some people imagine.

Moreover, the economic and security dimensions of the peace process are of great significance, and I believe that the developments in the world economy are Israel's biggest enemy, because Israel can no longer live in isolation, tied to the world by no more than a supply line to Europe or the United States. Moreover, the future horizons do not harbor definite guarantees for small countries seeking to develop self-sufficient economies. Rather, the current tendency is toward big and integrated regional economies, such as the EEC and the North America Free Trade Zone.

These indications should generate conviction that the hopes for economic prosperity depend on establishing a complete regional economic system that encompasses all of the region's small countries, including Israel and the future Palestinian state.

Israel must acclimate itself to the new reality, or it will continue to be in conflict with the proposed "new world order" that is founded on the principle of friendly cooperation, rather than isolation.

There is no doubt that establishing a regional security system is an essential requirement for establishing such a regional economy. To attain this objective, our region must be demilitarized. Demilitarization, as proposed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, is an important means of establishing the mainstays of peace in the Middle East.

To be a part of this regional security system, Israel has to adhere to its rules. It may not continue to be a nuclear power in the middle of a demilitarized region, else depriving Iraq of its military power would be a reflection of a double standard.

The path to attaining these economic and security objectives is the creation of a confederal union in the Swiss style—a union that encompasses Palestine in its entirety, including Israel and the territories Israel occupied in wake of the 1967 war, and Jordan. This union should respect the national and cultural unity and the territorial integrity of each party (Switzerland is divided into 23 cantons, each of which has broad powers). Such a system will facilitate a just solution to vital issues, such as sharing water resources, Jerusalem's status, and the refugee problem. I am confident that a confederal union in the Swiss style will find a solution to the issue of Jerusalem, which is dear to all our hearts.

Within the framework of a confederal union of this kind, I propose that Jerusalem be given a status similar to the status of Basle, a Swiss city, by designating it as an independent canton and capital of the confederation or of the proposed two-state system, i.e., a city that encompasses two political capitals.

If a confederal union of this kind is established, the Palestinians will be able to solve the refugee problem by themselves, instead of having foreign forces impose a solution for it. The proposed solution is that every Palestinian refugee be given the option of returning to his home in the new confederal union or be compensated if he chooses to live elsewhere.

These are the possibilities produced by the latest international developments.

Peace is a psychological state embodied in material security for the peoples concerned. Moreover, peace of mind creates a state of stability that is based on mutual respect and understanding, and that bears in its roots the seeds of justice. These seeds are capable of restoring stability by solving the problems of daily life that we encounter in our region, which is swirling in the maelstrom of conflict.

It remains to be said that it is our duty in this historic moment to be wise in order to achieve an agreement that does not bear the seeds of future conflicts. The wisdom is, in my opinion, in establishing a confederal union in the Swiss style.

'Urayqat Predicts Power Transfer by Nov 92

*TA1311145991 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
12 Nov 91 pp 1, 11*

[Report by Sa'id 'Ayad]

[Text] Bethlehem—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has said that 2 November 1992 will be the final date of the first phase of the bilateral negotiations, since at that time the measures for the transfer of power to the Palestinian people will be launched. 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, added that there will be nothing official in our homeland except through elections, that the transfer of power to the Palestinian people will be carried out under the international umbrella, and that the political committees formed in the occupied territories will work to shape public opinion and to prepare Palestinian residents to take over the authority that will be transferred to our people.

In response to a question on the continued establishment of settlements by the authorities during the negotiations, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said: The building of settlements is a violation of international law by Israel. It is inconceivable for the negotiations to continue while Israel is creating obstacles to the peace process.

Dr. 'Urayqat added: We went to the Madrid conference to reinforce the existence of our people and their legitimate national rights. He noted that the Palestinian delegation insists on resuming the bilateral negotiations in Madrid. With regard to the rumor that he did not attend the first round of the negotiations because of his wearing the Palestinian headdress, Dr. 'Urayqat said: I was coordinating with the other Arab parties at the time. My act was not a reaction.

Leaders Draft Document on Transition Period

*TA1211175691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1705 GMT 12 Nov 91*

[Excerpt] Palestinian leaders in the territories have drafted an eight-page document listing the modalities for the transfer of power from the Civilian Administration to the Palestinians during the transition period. The base of the political committees recently set up in the territories was expanded today to include Communist Party members. Our correspondent in the territories Moti Amir reports:

The eight-page working document detailing the transfer of power to the Palestinians was drafted by experts and lecturers in various fields who are residents of the territories. The document, which is actually a first draft, proposes the establishment of management committees [va'adot nihul] to govern all spheres of life in the territories. These would probably be mainly composed of the Civil Administration's Arab workers, who have been doing that job for a number of years. Those committees would be overseen by a supreme committee, called the Coordinating Committee for the Assumption of Power [va'adat te'um leqabalat hashilton]. A liaison committee [va'adat qishur] will be set up to handle dealings with the Israeli authorities. Journalist Ziyad Abu-Zayyad this evening confirmed the existence of the document, but stressed that this is a preliminary paper and that the committees have not yet been manned.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that through Faysal al-Husayni's pressure, the base of the political committees recently established in the territories was broadened today. Twenty-five new members have been added to the committees, particularly supporters of the Communist Party and the Abu-Rabbuh's faction of the Democratic Front. [passage omitted]

Leaders 'Breathe Life' Into Territory Committees

'Political Mechanism' To Be Established

TA1411115491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today the residents of the territories began celebrating the second anniversary of the declaration of the Palestinian state. Tulkarm high school students held an independence celebration today which ended without any disturbances and without the intervention of the Army.

Today the East Jerusalem papers published the names of approximately 30 additional members of the political committees that were appointed over the past few days after consultations with the Palestinian leaders in the territories. It appears that the people behind the formation of the political mechanism are trying to breathe life into the political committees even though seven senior members of these committees have already announced their resignation.

It is worth noting that the defense establishment had learned of the intention to set up a political mechanism from two of the idea's initiators during a meeting with the chief of staff's adviser on intifadah affairs at the Civil Administration in Ramallah. Security sources believe that the establishment of this political mechanism was designed to put an end to Fatah's status as an underground movement and enable it to receive unofficial legitimization from the authorities to conduct political activity. Most of the members of the committees, approximately 150 in number, are Fatah activists and former terrorists.

In East Jerusalem today, Palestinian leaders began formulating the committees' code of regulations which will guide the political mechanism's activities if and when the PLO approves its operation.

Nusaybah, Shraym To Head New 'Political Body'

TA1011133091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] The Palestinians have announced that they will set up a new political body that will support the peace processes, to be headed by Dr. Sari Nusaybah and his deputy, Ahmad Shraym, who was released from prison in the Jibril deal. Journalist Ziyad Abu-Zayyad announced in East Jerusalem that local political committees will operate in the territories and in East Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Gaza Strip committee will be headed by As'ad al-Saftawi. The East Jerusalem committee includes Ziyad Abu-Zayyad and Bassam al-Sa'ih, the son of the chairman of the Palestine National Council.

Additional committees have been set up in Ramallah, Jericho, Bethlehem, Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah.

Committees Source of 'Controversy'

JN1311180391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Report by Sa'id Mu'addi; from the "With the Events" program]

[Excerpt] The political action committees, the establishment of which was announced by Ziyad Abu-Zayyad on the same day the Palestinian delegation returned from Amman, continue to be an object of controversy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Informed Palestinian sources affirmed to us that the PLO is not satisfied with the differences taking place in the Palestinian arena inside [the occupied territories]. Thus, the PLO gave the green light for these committees to be dissolved and for serious work to be undertaken to set up a political structure in the territories. Some members of these committees, including Bassam al-Sa'ih and 'Imad Ya'ish, declared their withdrawal from these committees. Journalist Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, who is one of the founders of the political action committees in the territories, commented on the reports which indicate that it has been decided to dissolve the political action committees recently established.

[Begin Abu-Zayyd recording] In fact, just like others, I heard a report, not reports, about the dissolution of these committees. This report was broadcast by Israel radio in Arabic. I have no information to this effect. However, what I want to say is that these committees continue to exist. The best evidence to their continued existence is that today it was announced that more members have joined the committees. One brother withdrew from these committees. I was surprised to see a press advertisement today saying that for strictly personal reasons this person was forced to withdraw. I appreciate any colleague's personal circumstances and reasons. If personal circumstances force someone to do something, this does not signal any public move. We hope that the personal reasons, which this person said made him announce his withdrawal, will come to an end and that he will remain with us in these committees so as to be able to continue to deal and cooperate with each other to achieve something to serve the cause of peace, which is badly needed by our people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Wave of Resignations' From Committees

TA1311113091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Demonstrations both for and against the peace process have been under way in Hebron since this morning. Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi came to the town's university this morning to explain the Palestinians' achievements at the Madrid conference. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that additional debates will be held today in Abu-Dis and Nabulus, with the participation of members of the Palestinian delegation.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 13 November adds that "fights took place this morning between supporters and opponents of the peace process at the Islamic College in Hebron." The report notes "that a tear gas grenade was thrown at an Army contingent stationed outside. The grenade failed to explode. Our correspondent points out that the Army is not intervening in the developments inside the college."]

The wave of resignations from the political committees recently established in the territories continued this morning. Imad Ya'ish resigned from the committee in Nabulus. Ya'ish is a former terrorist released in the Jibril deal and is considered one of Fatah's senior activists in Nabulus.

Five Members Resign

TA1311061191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The political efforts have not been forgotten; however, there are difficulties in both the Israeli and the Palestinian camps. Due to differences over the modus operandi of the political committees in the territories, several residents of the territories and East Jerusalem decided to resign from the political committees recently established by Dr. Sari Nusaybah and journalist Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. Residents of the territories are trying to ignore their leaders' differing views regarding this issue. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

Yesterday, the first breach was made in the new political mechanism set up by Dr. Sari Nusaybah in the territories. The announcement on the establishment of the committees on the very day that the members of the Palestinian delegation returned from Amman was not welcomed by the delegation leaders. Speaking off the record, they said that the release of the names of the members of the committees was unnecessary and hasty, because it did not give the leaders of the delegation the opportunity to review the organization of the committees. Faysal al-Husayni had good cause, therefore, to declare on the following day that far-reaching changes in the composition of the political committees are possible. Yesterday evening, it was reported that another 25 members had joined the committees to provide representation of as wide a public as possible. At the same time, five committee members announced their resignation.

Bassam al-Sa'ih, the son of the chairman of the Palestine National Council, yesterday refused to explain his resignation, claiming that it stemmed from personal reasons.

[Recorded al-Sa'ih comments in Arabic, followed by Amir's translation] I decided to withdraw my candidacy for the East Jerusalem committee for personal reasons, al-Sa'ih said. Each resident of the territories can decide for himself. I reached my decision for my own benefit and for the good of my people.

It should be noted that several of those who resigned did so out of fear that steps would be taken against them, because the defense establishment has reiterated that political activity in the territories is banned under the prevailing law.

Last night it was learned that Dr. Sari Nusaybah, who heads the political mechanism in the territories, has left for Washington, where he will meet with Baker's adviser Dennis Ross, among other officials. His colleague, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, will continue to organize the political committees here, while Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi continue their public relations activity. Today they will participate in a meeting at Hebron University, where they will try to explain their achievements at the Madrid conference to an audience that will also include many Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members.

Meanwhile, the residents of the territories have begun preparations for the anniversary of the declaration of the establishment of the Palestinian state, which will be marked on Friday [15 November]. It appears that the residents will move the festivities ahead to today and tomorrow, out of fear that the security services will prevent them from celebrating on Friday.

Nusaybah—Israeli Reaction Crucial

TA1311142891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Nov 91 p A4

[By Yosi Torpstein and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sari Nusaybah, who was chosen to head the political committees, said yesterday that Israel's attitude toward their activities would be the test of its desire for peace. Nusaybah said in an interview with HA'ARETZ that the committees would operate openly and would not be linked in any way to violent activity.

"The question is to what extent Israel will be prepared to give us a certain level of political freedom so that we can develop the (public) support needed for the peace process," Nusaybah said. He spoke after a pro-Palestinian gathering in Washington.

Nusaybah said that the committees would be called "political action committees in support of the peace process," and they would be set up in each settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Their job would be "to enable the people not previously involved in political activity to become political activists, but only in support of the peace process."

Nusaybah pointed out that the committee members would act along two parallel paths: On one hand, they will get a feeling that they are directly involved in the political decisionmaking process and not being left behind. On the other, they will receive and disseminate information on developments in the peace process through open channels.

"At a certain stage," Nusaybah said, "we hope to conduct peace marches, and they will help the inhabitants go out and demonstrate under the slogan of the olive branch."

Nusaybah, who addressed a gathering of the "The Policy Analysis Center for Palestinian Affairs," a prestigious Palestinian research center, said that one of the main tasks in the future would be to appeal to the Israeli public within the framework of what he called "the olive branch strategy."

He promised that in the near future there would be joint activities between the Palestinians and the Israeli "peace camp," which would include holding another peace march around Jerusalem in cooperation with Peace Now.

Palestinian sources said that there are still differences of opinion over which people to include in the regional committees, especially in Hebron and Gaza. They also said that the members, who joined the committees today, are active communists and members of the 'Abd-Rabbuh faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who were not adequately represented before. According to these sources, the supreme committee will have 16 members: 10 from the West Bank and six from the Gaza Strip.

Riyad al-Maliki from Ramallah, who is identified with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and is one of the leading opponents of the peace process, said last night that among the Palestinians there is opposition to the peace process in its present form and that the committees were set up as part of a public relations campaign to win over Palestinians, especially the waverers.

Al-Maliki also said that setting up the committees is an attempt by Nusaybah and Abu-Zayyad to make themselves a counterbalance to al-Husayni's delegation. He said Hanan 'Ashrawi, who is close to al-Husayni, opposed the establishment of the committees in principle. Al-Maliki believes that committees of experts and academics, whose assistance to the delegation is much more important than the political committees, have so far not been set up. He also believes that the document planning the transfer of control over civilian affairs in the territories is merely an old document drafted two years ago by Sari Nusaybah, which referred to the establishment of a temporary Palestinian state and detailed all the civilian aspects that such a government is meant to deal with.

The conclusion from al-Maliki's remarks is that all the talk about committees and about thorough preparations by those who support the peace process is not serious. [passage omitted]

Journalist on Committees' Tasks

TA1211200391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Interview with Palestinian journalist Ziyad Abu-Zayyad by Yoni Ben-Menahem on 12 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Mr. Ziyad, this evening you announced the expansion of the base of the political committees in the territories.

[Abu-Zayyad] First of all, the political committees are not a closed body, or a secret organization, or a political organization. They are popular committees that have a clear objective—namely, supporting the peace conference. The door is open. Today a number of brothers who expressed their desire to pursue their activities within the framework of these committees were added to the committees. The door is still open for others.

[Ben-Menahem] There is criticism in the territories to the effect that the establishment of these committees is tantamount to an internal coup.

[Abu-Zayyad] That is a joke. The committees were formed in coordination between me and Faysal al-Husayni when he was abroad. He was aware of the establishment of these committees; he was in contact with me about them. We have made absolutely clear that the task of these committees is to support the peace conference as well as the brothers who bear the burden of negotiations in Madrid—in the negotiating delegation and in the advisory council. We are an adjunct to the two delegations tasked with waging the negotiations battle. We are the supporters and backers of those delegations.

[Ben-Menahem] And there are no personal differences between you and Faysal al-Husayni?

[Abu-Zayyad] The last person I would disagree with in the occupied territories is Faysal al-Husayni, personally or politically.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Ziyad, the authorities are investigating the legality of these committees.

[Abu-Zayyad] The authorities have the right to investigate everything, but I would like to make absolutely clear that we are entering a stage of negotiations. Individuals should be given the opportunity to share in the views and statements and to be acquainted with what is taking place. Political activity inside the occupied territories is a necessity imposed by the intifadah. Any political activity to support the peace process, mobilize the people in favor of peace, and inform the people about the negotiations is very necessary to the success of the peace process. Anyone who creates obstacles to these committees is ultimately creating obstacles to the peace process.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Ziyad, there are reports or rumors that a working paper about taking over self-government from the Civil Administration has been drawn up in the territories .

[Abu-Zayyad] We are working in three [as heard] directions. We are working to form technical committees of experts and technicians to aid the negotiating delegation and provide it with the necessary expertise and information so that it will succeed in its mission. We are working to set up a structure for an administrative body that would take over authority from the Civil Administration in the event agreement is reached between the negotiating delegation and Israel. This phase is still under study. An initial working paper has been drafted, but no administrative body has been formed yet. At the opportune time, and if the negotiations result in an agreement for the transfer of authority, this body will take over authority. There will be no actual work to take over authority from the Civil Administration until that time.

'Arafat: Region 'Will Erupt' If Conference Fails

NC1311194491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has warned that the region will erupt if the Middle East peace conference does not reach a solution. He said that the region will explode if the peace steps fail, because no one believes that the situation will not rupture if Israel takes the land, occupies countries, Judaizes the Christian and Muslim holy places, and declares that Jerusalem is the capital of the Israeli state from the Nile to the Euphrates.

He added: We are not demanding the impossible, but rather the implementation of international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine to be published on Friday [15 November], 'Arafat said that he is expecting tough negotiations in the coming stage of the peace process because Israel wants not only all the Palestinian territories, but also the Arab territories and because no pressures of any kind are exerted on it.

'Arafat stressed that the summer cloud which tarnished Palestinian-Egyptian relations has passed and that Egypt, its president and people will remain "on the side of Palestine, the Palestinian people, the Palestinian issue, and the issue of holy Jerusalem."

In reply to a question on his recent tour of Jordan, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and Egypt, 'Arafat said that it aimed to assess the outcome of the first round in Madrid, to draw up the bases and points of understanding for the second round, which could be held either in Washington or in one of the European capitals, and how to reach a unified Arab concept of the challenges facing us as an Arab nation, particularly against the intransigent and extremist stand declared by Yitzhaq Shamir at the Madrid conference.

Asked for his assessment of the Madrid conference at the Palestinian and Arab levels and of the two co-sponsor countries, the Palestinian leader stated that he can say that the Arabs have won this round. He added that the ugly picture represented by Shamir became obvious to the world through his speech, which was out of place and time, and through his repetition of mythical claims and dreams.

'Arafat described the Arab performance as good and the Palestinian one as excellent, adding that coordination between the Arab delegations was unique. As for the cosponsors of the conference, the United States and the Soviet Union, he said that "the mere convocation of the conference was a victory for them."

'Arafat asked in the interview: How can the Soviet Union restore its diplomatic relations with Israel while the United States does not restore dialogue with the PLO? He added: I am not asking for diplomatic relations, but for a dialogue. The United States is not reopening the dialogue, thus confirming that it has double standards on international legitimacy and in its dealings with the parties to the conflict.

'Arafat: Thaw With Kuwait 'Difficult To Imagine'

NC1311195191 Paris AFP in English 1820 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, Oct 13 (AFP) [dateline as received] - A number of Gulf Arab states are financing Moslem fundamentalist Palestinians opposed to the PLO, the organisation's leader Yasir 'Arafat charged in an interview published here Wednesday.

The Egyptian weekly AL-MUSSAWAR also quoted him as saying that Kuwait had been worse than Israel in its treatment of the Palestinians.

"Certain Arab countries of the Gulf are financing the fundamentalists in the (Israeli-) occupied territories in a bid to counter the PLO," 'Arafat said, without naming any countries. [passage omitted]

'Arafat said some Arab countries were still paying out money in an effort to change the leadership, although he himself had been "democratically and legally elected by the Palestinian people."

Saudi Arabia, however, released three million dollars worth of PLO funds in October.

'Arafat said a thaw in relations with Kuwait was "difficult to imagine, because what Kuwait did to the Palestinian people is worse than what has been done by Israel to Palestinians in the occupied territories."

More than 300,000 Palestinian residents of Kuwait have left the emirate since it was liberated, following harassment of their community because of its alleged support for the Iraqi invaders.

"Two thousand, five hundred Palestinians have been killed in Kuwait and 12,000 others detained," charged 'Arafat. "It would be difficult for the Palestinian people to forget that."

'Arafat Receives 'Important' Note From Pankin

LD1311192491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] President brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received an important message from Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin. The message concerns the peace process and the Madrid conference. Pankin highly appreciated the role of the PLO and the Palestinian delegation in the peace process and the Madrid conference. He stressed that the Soviet Union positively values the role and the performance of the PLO and the Palestinian delegation in the peace process.

Umm-Jihad Praises PLO Ties With Syria, Iraq

JN1411085391 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 14 Nov 91 pp 1, 19

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Amman—Fatah Central Committee Member Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir] has said relations between the PLO and Syria are currently marked by excellent coordination. Umm-Jihad said the Syrian authorities have released 2,000 Fatah members and that other detainees in Syrian jails will be released in the next few weeks.

Umm-Jihad added that relations between the PLO and Iraq are excellent. She said Yasir 'Arafat received an invitation to visit Iraq and will visit Baghdad soon. Umm-Jihad denied reports that Iraq has taken away the plane it gave to 'Arafat and said the embargo imposed on Iraq is the reason 'Arafat does not use that plane.

In an exclusive statement to AKHBAR AL-USBU', Umm-Jihad added that the PLO is seeking to improve its relations with all Arab regimes, and that Yasir 'Arafat will accept any invitation to a visit any Gulf state.

Umm-Jihad said she is optimistic about achieving peace in the Middle East and the return of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. She stressed that the battle for peace is part of the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their rights and that the Palestinian people will continue to use all legitimate means of struggle to regain their rights and establish their independent state. Umm-Jihad praised Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

'All Pending Issues' With Syria Resolved

NC1411114491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Tunis, 14 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian sources have confirmed that all pending issues between Syria and the PLO were resolved during the Fatah delegation's visit to Damascus. The Fatah delegation is due to return to Tunis today.

The Palestinian sources pointed out that Syrian officials promised to release the Palestinian detainees in Damascus, numbering about 3,000, no later than 1 January.

It should be recalled that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat recently held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on coordinating the Arab stand with regard to the second stage of the peace conference.

PNSF Team Meets With Syrian Vice President

JN1211181891 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received an expanded Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] delegation this morning. The delegation comprised Khalid al-Fahum, Ahmad Jibril, Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], 'Isam al-Qadi, 'Arabi 'Awwad, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu-Mayzar, Muhammad Khalifah, Abu-Khalid al- 'Amlah, Abu-'Ali Bsaysu, 'Abd-al-Karim 'Umar, 'Abd-al-Majid Hannunah, Talal Naji, 'Umar al-Shihabi, and Fadl Shururu.

The conferees discussed the Palestinian, Arab, and international situation, the latest developments in the heroic Palestinian intifadah, and ways to support it. They also discussed issues related to bilateral relations. The meeting lasted for about two hours.

Egypt

Mubarak on Madrid Talks, Peace Process

TA1311223991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Interview with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari at the Egyptian president's office in Cairo "a short while after the foreign ministers of Syria and the Gulf countries left it" on 11 November—recorded in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles; processed from Arabic]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Mr. President, thank you for this interview for Israel television. The first question: The convening of the Madrid conference and the start of direct discussions between Israel and the Arab countries are considered a victory for the Egyptian policy over the last 14 years. Does Your Excellency see a pioneering role for Egypt in the future stage?

[Mubarak] I believe that the Madrid conference is really a step on the road to peace. We consider it a victory on the road to peace. All parties participated in it. We had hoped that all parties would have participated in it earlier so that we could have reached peace already, but circumstances caused a delay in this conference. Still, Egypt aspires for peace. Egypt pushes the parties to peace, but peace on a just basis.

[Ya'ari] Does Your Excellency intend to raise certain ideas for the peace process in order to bring about progress?

[Mubarak] At the Madrid conference too, we shared with our brethren our experience in the peace negotiations, including any ideas and problems we faced. If there are new ideas, we will surely discuss them with them, and with the Israelis too.

[Ya'ari] Mr. President, the Madrid conference clearly showed the deep gap that exists between the views of Israel and Syria, not only regarding the foundations and principles of the solution, but also regarding the substance of the negotiations. How does Your Excellency view the possibility of overcoming this gap?

[Mubarak] The problem between Israel and Syria is a crisis of no confidence. Syria does not trust Israel, and you do not trust Syria. This is a complicated problem. It became clear in the Madrid conference. Nevertheless, I believe that a willingness to reach a peaceful solution and to end the state of war may be a principle that both sides should adopt so that we can start to build a new trust, and the peace negotiations will continue on the right track.

[Ya'ari] In Your Excellency's opinion, are the Syrians convinced of the necessity for peace and a peace accord with Israel?

[Mubarak] Why do you think that Syria is not willing to have peace? There is no country in the world that does not desire peace. There is no country in the world, including Syria, that does not want peace in order to build, to develop itself, to raise the standard of living of its people. Syria is a country which seeks peace. I personally spoke with President Hafiz al-Asad many times. President Hafiz wants peace. The Syrian people want peace, provided it is based on justice. In face of the continued declarations of no to the Golan Heights, however, the annexation of the Golan, and so on—you do not give hope. You, too, should provide hope and open the door so that he can convince his people that Israel is actually serious about peace. You in Israel desire peace. I believe that the Israeli people want peace. They want to live, to develop, and to have neighbors with whom they can cooperate. Therefore, they want peace. The Syrian people also want peace. Both sides, therefore, should do something to bring about confidence and remove the crisis of no confidence.

[Ya'ari] Is there any room for some sort of Egyptian mediation between President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Mubarak] Mediation?

[Ya'ari] Mediation to bring the viewpoints closer.

[Mubarak] I am ready to bring the viewpoints closer, but Mr. Shamir should eliminate some of his no's. Everything is no, no, no. That means you are locking the door with a key. Should we break the door down? Breaking the door down means war. If you want Egypt to mediate, you have to give us some basis on which we can talk with Syria. Negotiations start this way. But if you say no to the Golan—and during the Madrid conference you built a settlement and announced it—how can he trust you? Put yourself in his place. What can the Syrian president tell the Syrian people? I am going to Madrid to talk about peace, and they are building new settlements? This means that although there is a conference in Madrid, the Golan will not be returned. What hope are you leaving? You increase the crisis of no confidence.

[Ya'ari] The same story happened at the beginning of the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations, when Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin was saying we will not withdraw completely from Sinai.

[Mubarak] But he did not build settlements in the Sinai.

[Ya'ari] He used to say that he himself would live in one of the settlements.

[Mubarak] One can say a lot of things. I can tell you that I want to live in Jerusalem and build an Egyptian settlement there and live in it. One can say everything. Does Mr. Begin want to live among us? Let him come. He is welcome. We have no objection. There is peace between us and Israel. He did not set up settlements, except in the case of Tabah, which you tried to steal; however, we entered into arbitration in a civilized manner and took Tabah. It returned to us.

[Ya'ari] If we listen to Shamir's remarks today, that, for example, there will be no Israeli retreat from the Golan, what is the benefit of negotiations?

[Mubarak] Ask yourselves. Why do you ask me or the Arabs? You are saying no to the Golan; no solution to the issue of Jerusalem; the West Bank is ours. Why are you entering into the negotiations when you say no? So that you can force the Arabs to do something and can say the Arabs do not seek peace? Or do you believe that you will go and the Arabs will not attend? If we are really seeking peace, and if you in Israel actually are seeking peace—and I am sure that the Israeli people want peace—I ask the government, which knows that the people want peace—and I believe that the Israeli Government itself wants peace—to provide some hope in its statements and show that there is a solution on the horizon.

Mr. Begin may have acted with us this way, but the situation now is different. Mr. Begin's days have passed. The international situation is different. We must be reasonable with ourselves. If we are building peace, we must open the doors. We should provide hope for confidence building, but if I am going to meet with you without trust, and if you say no to everything—the settlements, no; the West Bank, no; the Golan, no; Jerusalem, no; and everything, no.... When you say no, it means you are not talking. These words reach even the citizens of Egypt. They hear that everything is categorically rejected.

In Begin's days, the circumstances were different. Today there must be a certain flexibility and moderation. We and you paid a heavy price for peace. There is no reason for Israel to pay the price for peace once more. Let us talk candidly about peace, because peace and the return of territory will ultimately lead to cooperation among peoples.

[Ya'ari] Does Your Excellency intend to convince Mr. Shamir of the Egyptian viewpoint when you meet him?

[Mubarak] I have sent letters and always have received negative responses.

[Ya'ari] Negative?

[Mubarak] Yes, negative. He also told our foreign minister in Madrid no, no, no—as if you recorded this word on tape and are now sitting pretty. Why, no? We want to reach agreement after all. Don't you want peace? One cannot say no all the time. It is not possible to seek both land and peace. This is impossible. It has not happened anywhere in the world.

[Ya'ari] Some time ago some elements affiliated with the Hizballah-Palestine organization, whose headquarters are in Damascus, were arrested in Egypt. They had planned to attack a U.S. vessel while it was crossing the Suez Canal. The United States has raised this issue with the Syrian authorities. Has there been any contacts between you and the Syrian leadership on this issue?

[Mubarak] This issue is not the way you depict it. The issue is in the hands of the judiciary. As long as it is in the hands of the judiciary, we cannot interfere. We maintain coordination with Syria in all matters, however, in the fight against terrorism as well as in other fields, so that there will be no terrorist operations here or there. As for the details of the matter, the issue is in a judicial process, and we have no right to discuss it. Our judiciary system is independent.

[Ya'ari] The former U.S. envoy in the autonomy talks, Sol Linovich, wrote recently in THE WASHINGTON POST that 80 percent of the details of the agreement on autonomy were agreed upon in the talks between Israel and Egypt. Do you believe that this achievement can form a basis for a future Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

[Mubarak] Why shouldn't it? It can form a good basis, but if it can be improved on in the negotiations, so much the better. This depends on the two sides, the Palestinian and the Israeli. We will present everything to the Palestinians that went on in the negotiations on the Camp David accords.

[Ya'ari] Have you tried to persuade the Palestinian delegation or the Palestinian leadership to accept the gains achieved by the Egyptian delegation during the autonomy talks?

[Mubarak] We cannot impose anything. We can say these are the gains that we have achieved and this is our opinion of them. If they are suitable to you, go ahead. We do not impose anything on anyone. We are ready to help them. We will help bring the viewpoints between you and them closer, because we want to reach peace.

[Ya'ari] Is there a possibility that an invitation will be sent to the Palestinian negotiating delegation to visit Cairo, just as Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was here at the beginning of the week?

[Mubarak] Why not. They do not need an invitation. Let them come; they are welcome. We have no objection whatsoever to the Palestinian negotiating delegation. Hanan 'Ashrawi was here as well as the head of the delegation, Faysal al-Husayni. They were here and I met with them.

[Ya'ari] Mr. President, does the presence of the PLO outside the negotiating framework represent, in Your Excellency's view, an advantage or disadvantage for the process and the chances of its success?

[Mubarak] We do not desire to speak with the PLO so that Mr. Shamir will not find any excuse to say no to the PLO or say that President Mubarak spoke with the PLO. You hold negotiations with the Palestinians. Agreement was reached between you on the present delegation. Let us allow them to continue the negotiations. There is no need to involve the PLO by force, neither as an asset nor as a liability. We want to solve the problem, and the PLO, which is outside, also wants to resolve the problem. I believe that the great majority of Palestinians want a solution. They are fed up with war. They want to live in peace, but peace on the basis of justice.

[Ya'ari] I'd like your view of the future: Would the establishment of a Palestinian ministate in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip constitute a fundamental solution to the problem, or is it preferable for the solution to be linked with Jordan one way or another?

[Mubarak] It is preferable that there be an independent Palestinian state that will be acceptable to the parties. If the parties cannot reach agreement on a Palestinian state, then a confederation between the PLO and Jordan. This is something which is currently being discussed.

[Ya'ari] What will Egypt advise the Jordanians and the Palestinians on the manner and nature of a solution?

[Mubarak] The manner and nature of a solution is a subject on the agenda, and our opinion for a long time has been that there is a need for a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and a confederal agreement that will conform with the requirements of the two sides. I advise everyone, however, to continue negotiating positively, without renouncing rights, until we achieve peace.

[Ya'ari] In past years, the Egyptian side worked to cool off the normalization process with Israel and to link normalization with Israeli steps, such as solving the Tabah problem or participating in the peace conference. Now, after Israel participated in the conference and the peace process has been launched, what is the expected improvement in bilateral relations between Israel and Egypt?

[Mubarak] There is no flaw in the relations between us and Israel.

[Ya'ari] The Israelis want to see more Egyptians coming. The Israelis are coming here.

[Mubarak] They are coming as tourists. They want to see Egypt. Encourage the Egyptians to come to you.

[Ya'ari] How can we encourage them to come to us?

[Mubarak] We have a free democratic country. Should I force them to go to Israel? They are going to Elat. They cross over from Tabah to Elat to have fun and go back. We do not prevent anybody from doing so, but what will they see in Israel? Let us talk reason without antagonizing you. Why should they go to Israel? First of all, it is very expensive. Second, an Egyptian may want to go to you, but people there still harm each other. Every day there are bus incidents. Palestinians hurt Israelis and Israelis hurt Palestinians. Why should he embroil himself in that? What will he look for? The beach? We have a long shore the size of the whole of Israel, but without you having built settlements on it.

[Ya'ari] There are people who want to pray at al-Aqsa?

[Mubarak] Do what?

[Ya'ari] Pray in Jerusalem.

[Mubarak] Nobody prevents this.

[Ya'ari] There are many Egyptians who may want to pray in Jerusalem. There are holy Islamic sites there, for which they may desire to go to Israel.

[Mubarak] Let them visit. Nobody prevents them from doing so. Those who want to pray in Jerusalem, be they Muslim or Christian, can go. We do not prevent anybody from going—not at all.

[Ya'ari] Mr. President, I ask again, with your permission, about a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir—about the possibility of a meeting with the Israeli prime minister. He, himself, may not be enthusiastic about a meeting, for political reasons, but the Israeli people would like to see the picture of the Israeli prime minister and the Egyptian president sitting together.

[Mubarak] Look, more than once I have relayed a message to the prime minister, saying that I do not fear a meeting. On the contrary, if the meeting yields results for bilateral relations, I would be very happy. I spoke with him on the telephone from New York in the presence of Moshe Arens two years ago. I told him: Mr. Shamir, I am prepared to meet with you. There is no problem, but we should prepare for the meeting so that it yields results for the peoples. What, for instance? If we can study and reach an agreement on any problem—on the issue of settlements or withdrawal from territories—it will have a positive impact in the Arab and Israeli streets. If I go to meet him....[Mubarak changes thought] Once we intended to issue an announcement, but he said: No, these are preconditions. Preparations are made for every meeting between heads of state. They meet so that the meeting can be meaningful and produce an agreed upon result. If I go to meet with Mr. Shamir or if he comes here, and the meeting ends without results, or if the results are meaningless for the citizens, what will the result be? Right now Israeli citizens who come here are treated very nicely by the Egyptians, be it in Aswan, or in Cairo, or in many other spheres that I do not want to discuss now. [sentence as heard] There are many Israelis here, and they are welcomed and are treated very normally. The Egyptian people are hospitable. If we meet and the meeting yields no results, however, the psychological aspect will be very important. The Egyptian citizen will think that Mr. Shamir tricked the Egyptian president. He met with him and nothing happened. Psychologically, it will seem that we were tricked. There will be friction between the Egyptian citizen and the Israeli citizen visiting Egypt. Tension [preceding word in English] will develop between the two peoples, and the visit will backfire. [preceding word in English] Relations between the two peoples will get complicated, and I do not want that. You may wish relations between the two peoples to become tense, but I do not.

[Ya'ari] Sometimes there is a negative feeling among the Israeli public due to articles in the Egyptian press. For example, two or three weeks ago, ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine published a front-cover picture depicting Shamir as the head of a snake.

[Mubarak] You publish many things about us. Look what you write about us in your press. Do you want me to give you examples? Besides, I cannot prevent this.

[Ya'ari] Can the leaders or the ministers not talk with the editor-in-chief of ROSE AL-YUSUF and tell him: Dear sir, ease up on the Shamir issue.

[Mubarak] What does ease up mean, that he should stop writing? I cannot prevent him from writing.

[Ya'ari] These pictures in which Shamir....

[Mubarak, interrupting] If we prevent them from publishing in national papers, they will publish in party papers. Why don't you contact them? You have an ambassador here. Call him and explain yourself to him. This is the worldwide practice. Our national papers are the first to criticize us—not only Mr. Shamir. They attack the Egyptian prime minister, publish cartoons against him, and have been persecuting him for more than one year. There is nothing we can say.

[Ya'ari] Regarding the negotiations, will Egypt attend the multilateral negotiations on regional issues even if Syria refuses to participate?

[Mubarak] Egypt has a special status. We hope that Syria will attend, and we will speak with our Syrian brethren. But he [Hafiz al-Asad] needs to have something with which to convince the Syrian public, so that he can say: I am going to discuss cooperation, for example. Until now, though, there has been no progress in the bilateral negotiations on the territories. This is a logical remark. At any rate, we will participate because we are a party with a special status. We have relations with Israel. Our presence might help general relations also. Egypt will not tarry in coming.

[Ya'ari] At the Madrid conference we noticed that the Egyptian delegation included some persons who boasted of their opposition to the Camp David accords and led the anti-Israeli boycott in Egypt. What is the meaning of incorporating them in the delegation?

[Mubarak] There is no ulterior motive. We included people from the opposition. Mr. Shamir himself opposed the Camp David accords and voted against them. Then what is the meaning of including Mr. Shamir? After all, Mr. Shamir rejected the Camp David accords, just as Lutif al-Khuli opposed the Camp David accords. Well then, it is the same thing. Only in your case, it is the prime minister and in our case it is a member of the delegation.

[Ya'ari] Was this a manifestation of the fact that there is a change in the position of the Egyptian left-wing?

[Mubarak] It has no meaning beyond showing that Egypt is a single bloc which follows and supports the peace process, a just peace. That is all.

[Ya'ari] Will Your Excellency advise the Palestinian and Jordanian delegations to participate in the multilateral negotiations even if Syria does not participate?

[Mubarak] We will advise them; we will talk with our Syrian brethren. In my speech at the People's Assembly, I expressed my opinion to Israel, to the Palestinians, to the Jordanians, and to all those who participated in the peace process.

[Ya'ari] Last question, Mr. President: What in your opinion is preferable: to advance quickly on the Palestinian track [previous two words in English]—that is, the achievement of the autonomy agreement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, or to advance more quickly on the Syrian track in order to achieve a sort of interim, preliminary agreement between us and Syria?

[Mubarak] Well, why do you want to choose this or the other track? The Palestinian problem is the core of the conflict, but what prevents progress on the Golan problem also? If you progress on the Golan issue, that will constitute a confidence-building measure with Syria. Syria does not believe that you will withdraw from the Golan. Why not progress on both tracks? What could happen? We are moving on two tracks toward peace, not war. I am telling you that in war you choose one track and abandon the other as a tactic, but we are moving on two tracks toward peace. We need not fear anything. Peace is a beautiful thing. It revives nations. It gives life to the citizen. It generates development, cooperation, love, and friendly meetings, instead of bloodshed, insults, and cartoons with captions such as: This one is not coming to Jerusalem, or cartoons about whether or not Jerusalem is the capital. Why delve into these things? Let us tread the path of peace. After peace arrives, we will look at all the problems on which we are insisting now and say this is all nonsense. Why have we insisted all this while and said: Jerusalem is our capital and we will not return the Golan, and nobody will enter the West Bank? Peace is dearer and more beautiful than all this. You will see there will be freedom of movement among all nations of the region, including Israel.

[Ya'ari] Thank you very much, Mr. President.

MENA Reports Interview

NC1311225591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—President Mubarak has called on Israel to adopt policies that will open the door to peace. He also expressed his confidence that the Israeli people want peace.

In an exclusive interview with Israeli television broadcast tonight, President Mubarak said that the confidence-building measures between Israel and Syria are very important. He stressed the fact that the Syrian people want peace, saying that Israel should change its policy with regard to the Golan Heights because the

Syrian president cannot urge the Syrian people to make peace as long as Israel refuses to make any concessions regarding the Golan.

Replying to a question, Mubarak said that he is ready to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on condition that such a meeting will produce positive and constructive results.

In his interview with Israeli television, which was cited by Israeli radio, President Mubarak said that the Palestinian issue is at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that it is possible that the conflict will be resolved either in the framework of an independent Palestinian state or through a confederal framework with Jordan.

President Mubarak said that the portion of the Camp David Accords concerning self-rule for the Palestinians can be the basis for resolving the Palestinian issue if the Palestinian and Israeli sides agree to it.

Mubarak Calls Knesset Ruling 'Impediment to Peace'

NC1411130191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has warned Arabs of Israel's provocations, both in connection with the Golan Heights and the settlements. He said that the Israeli Knesset decision to consider the Golan Heights territory that is not negotiable is an impediment to peace.

The president was responding to a question he was asked after delivering a speech to a joint session of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council today. The question revolved around whether there was sufficient groundwork for the beginning of the multilateral talks next month.

President Mubarak said: We must be well aware of Israel's provocative actions, which make it appear as if it does not want peace with the Arabs. He pointed out that the Knesset decision on the Golan Heights is meaningless and what the Israelis intend to do is withdraw from the negotiations to win the battles. [sentence as received] [Cairo MENA in English at 1112 GMT on 14 November carries a similar report on Mubarak's comments that says: "He said the Knesset resolution constitutes an impediment on the road to peace but he added that the Arabs should realise that Israel wants to provoke them so that they withdraw from negotiations and it gains that battle."]

He described the Knesset's decision as "a needless act of negotiating one-upmanship." He noted that only 26 members of the 120 Knesset members approved the decision.

President Mubarak asserted that the Arabs will proceed with the negotiations. He said: Our position is clear to the world.

Asked if the multilateral negotiations will go on as planned in light of views that say they might be postponed until next February, President Mubarak said that the negotiations are an integrated and multifaceted process and no one is binding us to anything.

He continued that it is unreasonable that no progress should take place in the negotiations, but at the same time it is unreasonable for progress to occur in the multilateral negotiations while Israel continues to occupy Arab territory. He declared: This is obvious and Israel knows it.

He called on Arabs to exercise patience to foil Israeli provocations especially as Arab rights are clear.

President Mubarak referred to the Egyptian negotiations with Israel over Sinai and noted that despite Israel's claim at the time that Sinai belonged to it, in the end the territory was returned to Egypt in full.

On the aim of his next European tour, the president said: It is a visit to our friends. I cannot, however, tell you what the visit's aim is.

Mubarak Briefs Legislators on Area, Domestic Issues

NC1311121091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that negotiations for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will be difficult. This, he said, requires patience and determination until peace is attained.

President Mubarak added that Palestinians, the main party to the issue, have started to talk about their cause at the Madrid conference, and the countries concerned have begun the march of peace and dialogue without abandoning any of their rights. He affirmed that wars do not provide final solutions to disputes among states, as these can be resolved by dialogue and endeavors toward peace.

President Mubarak made these remarks during a meeting last night with National Democratic Party [NDP] parliamentarians on the eve of the new People's Assembly session.

Safwat al-Sharif, information minister and NDP assistant secretary general said that President Mubarak noted during his meeting with NDP parliamentarians that the Gulf crisis is not over yet and that the effects it left behind must be remedied. President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt's relations on Arab and international levels are outstanding. Egypt, he added, is dealing with all countries in a way that suits each country while maintaining its sovereignty, preserving its dignity, and achieving the people's interests.

President Mubarak denied there is a crisis in Egyptian-Libyan relations, noting that some people fail to grasp the depth of the ties linking the two countries. He noted that individual mistakes here and there will not affect the march of the two peoples. In this respect, President Mubarak noted that he is in constant touch with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

During the meeting with the NDP parliamentarians, President Mubarak stressed Egypt's determination to seek economic reforms. He noted that there is a price tag on reforms, but the Egyptian people are capable of tolerating the burdens of the reforms and will pass this stage. President Mubarak denied press reports that the People's Assembly will be dissolved. He pointed out that the assembly is performing its duty and that its members were freely elected and represent the will of the people. President Mubarak noted the importance of stability within legislative and executive institutions, adding that he is eager to maintain stability in these institutions because otherwise there would be no freedom or democratic practice.

President Mubarak underlined the principle of freedom of the press. He emphasized that the press in Egypt is free and nobody is interfering in its affairs or its right to criticize. He did note, however, the need for this criticism to be objective, not to reach the point of slander, and to observe ethics and traditions, which represent the riches of Egyptian society.

President Mubarak mentioned the decisionmaking process in Egypt. He pointed out that decisions are made after scientific study and research and on the advice of experts and specialists, in consideration of the people's will. The president noted in this respect that the age of unilateral decisionmaking is over because any decision must be marked by wisdom and must not endanger the people's interests.

Interior Ministry: No Evidence of Infiltration

NC1311135491 Paris AFP in English 1301 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, Nov 13 (AFP)—Interior Ministry sources here said Wednesday there was no evidence to support Israeli statements that four infiltrators who crossed into Israel early Monday and were killed had entered the country via Egyptian territory.

An Interior Ministry spokesman also said there was no relation between the reported interception and an Egyptian announcement later that day that security measures along Egypt's border were to be bolstered.

Ministry sources said the Israelis had provided no proof to support their claim and no information on the identities of the commandos or their nationalities. They also stressed there was nothing to suggest that the commandos were Egyptians.

An Israeli Army spokesman in Jerusalem reported late Monday that Israeli forces had killed four heavily-armed guerrillas who crossed Israel's southern border from Egypt.

He said the commandos, carrying five assault rifles and scores of grenades, were intercepted in the western Negev Desert after entering the country from the Sinai Peninsula and were killed following a chase.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the operation.

An Israeli Embassy spokesman in Cairo said Wednesday he had no new information on the incident.

"A thorough investigation is underway," he said, adding that he could not confirm that the commandos had infiltrated Israeli territory from Egypt.

He said Israel had lodged no complaint with the Egyptian Government and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said no protest had been received by its embassy in Tel Aviv.

Last fall an Egyptian soldier who crossed the border near the southern Israeli port of Elat opened fire on Israeli vehicles, killing three soldiers and a civilian and wounding another 23.

PLO's Qaddumi—Visit To 'Bolster' Arab Stance

NC1011153191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1421 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several days.

In a statement on his arrival, Qaddumi announced that his visit to Egypt is designed to bolster the Arab position. He asserted that Egypt is the focal point of all inter-Arab coordination.

He added that it is natural for him to be in Cairo to promote this continual inter-Arab coordination. He said he will meet with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa for further consultations in this regard.

On his views regarding the future of the peace process, the head of the PLO Political Department said that the PLO has facilitated the peace process by adopting flexible stands. He said it demonstrated to the world that the Palestinian people seek peace, but without having to abandon their legitimate national rights.

Qaddumi pointed out that the United States knows that the Palestinian delegation has done a good job in paving the way for the peace process. He said this position must be appreciated at this critical time in world history when the United States is seeking to build a new world order and establish stability in the Middle East. He said that the real focal point of peace is Palestine.

Qaddumi said that peace will not be achieved unless Palestinian rights are restored, including the right to self-determination, to establish an independent state, and return refugees to their homes.

Faruq Qaddumi remarked that the United States must prove its good intentions. He noted that it has promised to exert pressure on Israel to make it stop building settlements once and for all and said this clearly proves that the United States appreciates the Palestinian attitude to the peace process and has made this first step toward ensuring the success of the conference.

The head of the PLO Political Department said that Jerusalem is a basic issue at the peace talks, that it is an indivisible part of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, and that it cannot be abandoned for any reason whatsoever.

He stressed the special significance that Jerusalem, the cradle of the three religions, has for Muslims and Christians. He added that UN Security Council resolutions provide for withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Jerusalem. He said these resolutions also condemn the Judaization and annexation of Jerusalem.

Faruq Qaddumi said that the international community has condemned Israel's settlement program. He demanded that UN Security Council Resolutions 465 and 487 providing for the removal of all settlements be implemented. He pointed out that any call to establish international legitimacy must be accompanied by implementation of these resolutions because double standards cannot be allowed in matters of international legitimacy as they do not serve the cause of peace in this region.

Meets Foreign Minister Musa

NC1111175391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1732 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met in Cairo this evening with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

The two officials assessed the outcome of the Madrid conference on peace in the Middle East and exchanged views on the next stage of peace negotiations—due to begin within the next two weeks—with special emphasis on ways to support the Palestinian and Arab position.

Minister Musa and Qaddumi met yesterday to discuss Egyptian- Palestinian coordination—as part of inter-Arab coordination—during the peace conference, as well as ways to push the peace process forward in a manner that guarantees progress in the peace march and safeguards lawful Arab and Palestinian rights.

Qaddumi is expected to leave Cairo tomorrow.

Morocco

Fes Court Finds 25 Students Guilty of Violence

LD0911142891 Rabat MAP in English 1256 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Fes, Nov 9 (MAP)—The Fes court pronounced Friday jail sentences ranging from six months to four years and fines for offenders tried following bloody incidents on Oct 25 and 31 in the city university.

Twenty-five students out of thirty arrested during violent university clashes were found guilty of charges.

In Oujdah, the court was in session Friday dealing with dossiers of 57 students arrested Nov 1st on similar grounds. Twenty-nine appeared in the morning to face charges of murder in the first degree, kidnapping, use of banned weapons and possession of explosives. The group stays in custody pending further investigations.

After hearings in the afternoon of other students arrested in Oujdah for lesser charges, the court adjourned to resume session on Monday and give defense counsel time to work on their files.

Unions Urge End to Unrest

LD1111160891 Rabat MAP in English 1348 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Rabat, Nov 11 (MAP)—Delegates from the National Union of Higher Education (SNE-SUP), from the National Union of Education (SNE) and from the autonomous Federation of Education last week presented their claims and grievances to Education Minister Taieb Chkili, at a meeting held at the latter's request.

In a statement they released over the weekend, the unions noted the minister's readiness for dialogue even if he gave no practical answers to their claims. The minister promised his department and other governmental bodies will examine the issues raised. In another development, the Fes local bureau of the SNE-SUP Sunday released a statement vehemently condemning bloody events in some Moroccan universities which opposed left wing to religious extremist students. The statement appealed to students to preserve the nature of the university as a space for democracy, dialogue, peaceful coexistence and respect of human rights. It also called on students to "ben violence" and focus efforts on "basic problems of students".

The statement voiced determination to continue struggle until fulfillment of legitimate claims and expressed support to the call of SNE-SUP administrative commission for a preventive strike to be followed by strikes if teachers claims are not met.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Briefs Officials on Libyan Visit

EA1211173091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, briefed the Council of Ministers during its regular meeting yesterday on the results of his visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He said the visit was in line with the constant consultation and coordination between the leaderships of the two countries aimed at promoting integration and related steps in the interests of the two brotherly peoples.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said stability in the Horn of Africa region, the unification of the ranks in Chad, and particularly the unification of the fronts and factions in Somalia were the subjects of the bilateral talks, which sought to create a climate conducive toward stabilizing the situation in this important region of Africa.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar added that the talks also covered progress in integration between the two countries, in which respect agreement was reached on supporting cross-border trade between Sudan and Libya, and also on the operations of the Arab Libyan-Sudanese Investment Company and its projects. In this respect the company's additional projects were discussed, and the Libyan side expressed its readiness to increase the company's capital to match its aspirations. Also discussed with the Libyan officials was the plan for self-sufficiency in cereal production to cover the needs of both countries.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the Libyan officials had asked to be supplied with studies on increasing the capacity of Sudanese factories to produce sugar both quantitatively and qualitatively to enhance Sudan's earnings from the production of sugar by marketing it in the Jamahiriyah, based on the agreement that this expansion would be supported and financed by the Jamahiriyah. The Libyan officials also requested the convening of a seminar in the Jamahiriyah to discuss opportunities for and conditions affecting investment in Sudan, to be attended by ministers of energy, finance, and industry with a view to shedding further light on this matter. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the Libyan authorities had stated their readiness to finance Libyan citizens who expressed a desire to invest in Sudan.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said it was decided during the talks that a new oil agreement would be signed before 20 December 1991.

The talks also touched on Sudanese-Egyptian relations and ways of normalizing them. It was confirmed that steps had been taken with a view to halting media campaigns and [words indistinct] direct contacts.

During its regular meeting yesterday the Council of Ministers also heard a report by Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, minister for presidential affairs [title as heard], on the degree of implementation achieved by the federal and state governments during the period June 1989 to June 1991 in terms of decrees issued and tasks imposed. The council was accordingly informed of the relevant position in regard to the decrees issued and tasks imposed by the RCC chairman and the Council of Ministers, which was that these had been 76 percent successfully carried out. [passage omitted]

Accords Reached With Libya

EA1311203591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Excerpts] During its recent meetings in Khartoum the team working on integration between Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah in the agricultural sector approved several projects for investments in agriculture, agricultural aviation, veterinary medicine, and the agricultural infrastructure. The Libyan working team for agricultural investment expressed agreement with the efforts made by the integration secretariat to prepare detailed studies on agricultural projects for approval by the higher integration authority. [passage omitted] The Sudanese presented a number of new proposals, including expanding the integration project to three sides: Sudan, Libya, and Egypt.

In the field of agricultural aviation, agreement was reached on establishing a joint company. The team also approved a draft agreement between the two countries on veterinary medicine as well as documentation on technical cooperation in agricultural research and the exchange of data and statistics. The team agreed that the Sudanese should prepare a paper on infrastructural cooperation to be submitted to the next session, which will be held in Tripoli in December.

[Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic adds in the same newscast: "Dr. Faruq al-Bushra, the general secretary for Arab-Libyan-Sudanese integration, has confirmed that Libya is committed to supplying Sudan with about 6,100 metric tons of petroleum products every month, in addition to quantities of gasoline. Dr. Faruq al-Bushra said that the integration between Sudan and Libya was proceeding well in all the fields on which agreement had been reached for economic and trade cooperation."]

Bahrain

Iran's Besharati Arrives With Message

JN1311124091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1129 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Manama, 13 Nov (WAKH)—'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian deputy minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Manama from the United Arab Emirates [UAE] today on a visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of some states in the region.

The Iranian official is carrying a message from the Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain.

He was received at the airport by Mr. Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, director of administrative, financial, and consular affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and Javad Turk Abadi [name as received], Iranian ambassador to Bahrain.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN1311143291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Manama, 13 Nov (WAKH)—In Manama today, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahrain's prime minister, received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Besharati.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with ways of developing bilateral relations, in addition to current developments in the Arab and international arenas.

His highness the prime minister expressed his appreciation for Iranian policies to help expand fields of cooperation with the neighboring Arabian Gulf states, and develop relations on the basis of mutual respect and good neighborliness. He lauded the level of development and understanding in various fields reached in Bahraini-Iranian relations.

Besharati stressed his country's desire to further increase cooperation with Bahrain in various fields, and to exchange official and private visits to develop and consolidate this cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, and Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, assistant under secretary of the Interior Ministry for immigration and passports.

Meets Deputy Amir

JN1311142691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1325 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Manama, 13 Nov (WAKH)—In Manama today, His Highness Bahraini Deputy Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who presented his highness with a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for His Highness Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. The message deals with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

His highness the deputy amir and the Iranian deputy foreign minister reviewed bilateral cooperation as well as the latest regional and international developments.

Kuwait

Iran's Besharati Meets Prime Minister

LD1111123691 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 Nov (KUNA)— Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, today received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The message, the contents of which have not been disclosed, was conveyed by 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, first deputy foreign minister and the Iranian president's envoy, who is currently visiting Kuwait.

The Iranian official had a meeting later today with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, and by Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadiqi. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Salim Returns From Cairo Talks

LD1211200391 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1058 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Nov (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Kuwait late last night from Cairo where he headed the Kuwaiti delegation that participated in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states. The meeting concluded its proceedings in Cairo last night.

The eight foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states—the GCC states, Egypt, and Syria—at the conclusion of their meetings last night called on the Iraqi regime to comply with Security Council resolutions relating to the war for the liberation of Kuwait in order to end the sufferings of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi peoples. The ministers also affirmed the constant and firm support by their states for the Palestinian people in their struggle to wrest all their established national rights, including the right to self-determination.

Defense Minister Says Nuclear Radiation 'Normal'

LD1111093691 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0813 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 11 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Salim al-Sabah confirmed that

Kuwait is completely free from the effects of nuclear radiation following the Gulf war. Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah in a statement to the 'SAWT AL-KUWAYT' newspaper published today said that reports in the possession of the Kuwaiti authorities confirm that the level of radiation in the atmosphere and on the ground is normal and gives no cause for alarm and fear. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah stressed that thus far no rise in the level of radiation has been recorded in the atmosphere or on the ground in Kuwait. He said: We take seriously reports which are published in newspapers on this subject and we submit them to the appropriate committees for study. There is also coordination in the exchange of information with the states of the alliance which possess advanced scientific know-how and advanced equipment in these fields. He noted: If there was any information that concerned the health of the citizens we would not hesitate to publish it and take the necessary countermeasures.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah denied that nuclear waste has been stored or buried in Kuwaiti territory. He said : In any event we would not permit such activity. We are a small country and do not have the know-how to store or to bury any of this waste material. [passage omitted]

Amir To Visit USSR, PRC, Turkey, Italy

LD1211195691 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Nov (KUNA)—It was officially announced here today that the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, tomorrow will begin a tour during which he will vist Turkey, China, the USSR, and Italy. This tour will complement the visits he had previously paid after the liberation of Kuwait to some of the countries that played a prominent role in the war for the liberation of the country. [passage omitted]

Joint Exercises With U.S. Begin

LD1111205391 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1916 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 11 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwaiti and U.S. forces today began joint military exercises involving amphibious landings and close air support sorties on Kuwaiti shores, with the participation of the USS Saipan, the aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower, and groups of U.S. aircraft.

The exercises, in which forces from the U.S. amphibious unit and the Marines are involved, include training in logistic operations involving units from various Kuwaiti Armed Forces and the U.S. Army stationed in Kuwait.

The Saipan is an amphibious assault ship, and during these exercises its task will be to land Marines on Kuwaiti shores to train in launching counterattacks. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti-U.S. joint exercises are taking place within the framework of the defense cooperation agreement signed last month between Kuwait and the United States.

Japan Extends $1 Billion Line of Credit

LD0711203991 London KUNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, 7 Nov, KUNA—Japan joined today the group of friendly countries that have offered financial credit lines to Kuwait to finance Kuwait's trade with them. Japanese Finance Ministry officials informed 'Abdallah al-Qabandi, delegation member of the Kuwaiti General Investment Corporation [al-Hay'ah al-'Ammah lil-Istithmar], and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sharikh, accredited Kuwaiti ambassador to Japan, of this decision at a meeting the two Kuwaiti officials had with senior Japanese Finance Ministry officials. The value of this credit amounts to U.S. $1 billion. It is worth noting that al-Qabandi is currently visiting Tokyo in the context of Kuwait's attempts to obtain some temporary means of finance for Kuwait's reconstruction. Four large Japanese commercial banks had expressed their agreement to participate in the joint international loan, to the value of U.S. $5 billion, which is currently being arranged for Kuwait. The $1 billion credit line that Japan granted to Kuwait is not included in the joint international commercial loan. Al-Qabandi will give a lecture tomorrow morning in Tokyo to a large gathering of Japanese bank representatives, in which he will explain the economic developments in Kuwait after liberation, especially in the financial and oil sectors.

Oman

South Africa's De Klerk, Botha in Stopover

MB1411061991 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0500 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The state president, Mr. F.W. de Klerk, has stopped off on his way to the Republic of China, for a surprise visit to the Arabic state of Oman where he has held talks with Oman's deputy minister of foreign affairs.

The meeting with Mr. Yusuf 'Abdallah took place at Muscat Airport. President de Klerk was welcomed by a guard of honor and senior officials of Oman's Foreign Ministry. Our special representative accompanying the state president on his overseas visit reports that the meeting in Oman is of particular significance because it is seen as confirmation of the good relations that South Africa has maintained over the years with the Arabic state at the entrance to Persian Gulf.

Mr. de Klerk said after the meeting that it was significant that the Government of Oman was intensely interested in developments in Africa and that it realized that South Africa could play an important role in the development of the continent. Mr. de Klerk enlightened Mr. Yusuf about the negotiation process in South Africa. Mr. de Klerk said it was clear from the discussions that Oman and other Arabic states had great expectations for the peace process that had begun in the Middle East.

The minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Pik Botha, who is accompanying the state president, said the meeting confirmed Oman's willingness to maintain normal relations with South Africa. Mr. Botha said that businessmen in Oman were keen to become involved in South Africa. Our representative reports that another visit to Oman and other Arabic states, at a later stage, has not been excluded. Mr. de Klerk arrived in the Republic of China this morning for a three-day visit.

Mr. de Klerk and his entourage were welcomed at Taipei Airport by an impressive military guard of honor.

Qatar

Iran's Besharati Continues Visit to Region

JN1411102491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Doha, 14 Nov (WAKH)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati today arrived in Doha on a visit to Qatar within the framework of a tour in the region. The Iranian official will hold talks with senior Qatari officials on issues of mutual concern and bilateral ties.

Confers With Foreign Minister

JN1411123191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Doha, 14 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir today met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati. They reviewed the means to improve relations between the two countries in all fields and discussed a number of issues of mutual concern.

Spokesman Expresses 'Indignation' at Knesset Move

JN1411122791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Doha, 14 Nov (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has expressed its strong indignation at the Israeli Knesset's decision to consider the occupied Syrian Golan Heights an Israeli territory not subject to negotiations, and warned of the negative consequences such Israeli measures will have on the peace process that started in Madrid.

A Foreign Ministry official source said it is regrettable that Israel continues to follow the same expansionist policy at a time when it participates in peace talks, which are based on the exchange of land for peace and commitment to apply UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The source said the Israeli decision is a flagrant violation of UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 497, which considers Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights null and void. The Knesset decision also challenges the principles and objectives of the peace conference and is a provocation to all parties taking part in the peace process, the source added.

Saudi Arabia

'Strong Regret' Over Knesset's Golan Decision

LD1311192591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1835 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, 13 Nov (SPA)—A responsible source passed the following statement to SPA today:

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has followed with strong interest and anxiety statements broadcast by international news agencies on the Israeli Knesset's decision to consider the Syrian Golan Heights a nonnegotiable Israeli territory. While the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its strong regret in this regard, it affirms that this decision, which contradicts the contents of the U.S. Middle East peace initiative announced by His Excellency U.S. President George Bush, can not only obstruct the current peace process but is considered a departure from the principle on the basis of which the Madrid peace conference was convened and constitutes a challenge to Arab feelings and an unjustified provocation.

PNC Member's Allegations 'Strongly' Denounced

LD1311155991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Nov 91

[By unidentified SPA political commentator]

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Nov (SPA)—Commenting on what was said by the member of the Palestine National Council [PNC], Hamadah Fara'inah, in a conference which was held in Amman last Sunday evening, the SPA political commentator wrote the following:

We strongly denounce what was said by Hamadah Fara'inah, who stated: "The decision by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to resume its financial support to the liberation organization came as the implementation of an agreement between the U.S. Administration and the organization," and consequently we disapprove of the statements he made at the same conference according to which Prince Bandar Bin Sultan took in charge the payment of Syrian expenses during the peace conference in Madrid.

Perhaps Fara'inah does not remember that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—and all the Palestinian leaders are witness to this—was and still is the only state which fulfills its financial and moral commitments toward the Palestinian people, and was the one which was and still is standing by their side in all the stages of their struggle, with the aim to reach the victory of their just cause and achieve their legitimate demands in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions and international legitimacy.

Fara'inah should know that what was presented lately by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the PLO was the total amount of the donations of the Palestinian citizens residing in the Kingdom, in addition to the donations of their brothers, the Saudi citizens, which were received by the people's committee for helping the Palestinian mujahidin.

He should know also that when the Kingdom carries out its duties in this field, it has as a departure point its permanent eagerness for the continuation of its political and humanitarian role toward the Palestinian cause, without interference or influence from any other side.

It is really regrettable that such statements are made by a Palestinian citizen who is a PNC member and who is supposed to work for his cause, and not apply himself to working against it by making various statements which are absolutely not true.

United Arab Emirates

Besharati Visits; More on Talks in Kuwait

LD1211092891 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov. 12, IRNA—Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati discussed international and regional developments here Monday with President and ruler of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The two sides reviewed ways of broadening Tehran-Abu Dhabi economic and trade relations, financial and banking cooperation and joint investments in Iran's economic and industrial development projects.

Referring to Iran-UAE historical bonds, Shaykh Zayid said the good neighbourly relations between the two countries was a major factor in regional peace. Besharati who arrived here from Kuwait Monday afternoon on a two-day visit, said Iran is for consolidation of relations with the Muslim and neighbouring states, members of the Gulf Cooperation Council in particular. He also called for expansion of bilateral relations.

While in Kuwait Besharati met with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah Monday noon discussing bilateral relations, international and regional developments. The two sides also raised return of the Iranians living in Kuwait and also facilitating return of the Kuwaitis with no identification papers who fled to Iran after invasion of Kuwait in August 2, 1990.

Besharati also met with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah Monday afternoon befor flying to Abu Dhabi.

Defense Minister, Besharati Confer

JN1211120491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Dubayy, 12 Nov (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum met in Dubayy today with 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian first deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is currently on a visit to the UAE.

The two officials discussed issues of common interest and means of cooperation between the two countries.

Besharati is on a tour of a number of states in the region.

Spokesman Denounces Israeli Decision on Golan

JN1411102291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has denounced the Israeli Knesset's decision to consider the occupied Syrian Golan Heights a territory not subject to negotiations, and said the decision is null, constitutes a major obstacle to the peace efforts, and contradicts the principles on which the Madrid peace conference was convened.

In a statement by the Foreign Ministry official spokesman, the UAE called for pooling international efforts to stop Israel from creating obstacles to foil the peace conference.

The source said the UAE considers this decision a flagrant challenge to the will of the international community, which exerts sincere efforts to ensure the continuation and success of the peace process. The decision clearly contradicts the principles of the U.S.-Soviet initiative, as outlined by President Bush and on whose bases the peace process was launched in Madrid, the source concluded.

Aide on Damascus Declaration Talks, Egypt Paper

JN1311102291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of state for foreign affairs, said that the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states produced positive results which are compatible with the practical and serious policies of these states and their desire to establish firm and studied foundations for joint action.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan said that the ministers discussed various issues on the meeting's agenda and made the necessary decisions. They also reviewed the results of the first phase of the Madrid peace conference on the Middle East and examined the means to coordinate work between the concerned countries in the second and third phases of the conference's proceedings.

He said in a statement to WAM that Egypt presented a comprehensive working paper on the scope of cooperation among the countries participating in the Damascus Declaration in the political, security, economic, information and other fields.

He added that in view of the importance of the Egyptian working paper and the impact it will have on future cooperation among the concerned countries, the foreign ministers believed that the paper requires further examination and discussion; they therefore decided to refer it to their governments for examination and consultation.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid said that the foreign ministers' decision to study these proposals further indicates the seriousness of their approach and genuine desire to reach studied concepts rather than to adopt hasty decisions and projects that would be added to some decisions and projects that were issued at many previous Arab meetings, but which were not implemented.

Foreign Minister Sends Messages to UN Chief

'Text' of Message on UN Resolution 598

JN1311193791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] New York, 13 Nov (INA)—Iraq has reaffirmed that it has always been eager to implement Security Council Resolution 598 as a peace plan to achieve a just, lasting, and honorable peaceful settlement between Iraq and Iran.

In a message sent to the UN secretary general, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn referred to Iran's attempts to divide Resolution 598 and benefit from the current difficult circumstances in Iraq, hoping that it will change the essence of Paragraph 7 of the resolution in a way serving Iran's position on the resolution at the expense of a sound implementation of its provisions. Following is the text of the foreign minister's message:

We learned from the mass media that a UN delegation headed by 'Abd-al-Rahim Farah visited Iran during the first week of this month for the second time to evaluate Iran's losses during the Iran-Iraq war, and to implement Paragraph 7 of Security Council Resolution 598, issued in 1987. I would like to reaffirm to Your Excellency, before I make any observations about these misrepresentations, that Iraq has always been eager to implement Security Council Resolution 598 as a peace plan to achieve a just, lasting, and honorable peaceful settlement to the Iraq-Iran dispute.

As I informed you in my letter dated 26 August 1991, the implementation of Resolution 598 was suspended, and only the cease-fire part of it was implemented temporarily. The cease-fire did not hold as a result of Iran's violations and its military interference by sending saboteurs across the border to destroy Iraq's cities and economic structures. Iran exploited the circumstances Iraq experienced as a result of the aggression against it on 17 January 1991. Moreover, the return of all POW's to their homelands has not yet taken place, and thousands of Iraqi POW's are still suffering from the tragedies of a full decade of captivity far from their families and loved ones.

Through the talks and meetings that were held in Geneva and New York under your auspices, during the visits of your personal representative, Ambassador Jean Eliasson, and through its declared official stand, Iraq has frequently stressed that dividing Resolution 598 and dealing with its clauses in a selective manner will not make the two parties to the dispute reach the desired settlement.

We believe that the dispatch of the said delegation to Iran under the current circumstances and jumping to Paragraph 7 of Resolution 598 will be interpreted as a response to Iran's policy of dividing the resolution on the one hand, and benefiting from the hard circumstances being experienced by Iraq on the other, in the hope that the essence of Paragraph 7 will be changed in a manner which would serve the Iranian position on the resolution at the expense of the sound application of its provisions.

'Text' of Message on Radioactive Debris

JN1311194991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] New York, 13 Nov (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations of the new hideous crime perpetrated by U.S. forces during their aggression against Iraq, which was embodied by the allied forces' use of armor-piercing rounds made of depleted uranium. These rounds contain chemically toxic and radioactive waste and poses the threat of a long-term human and environmental catastrophe.

In a message in this regard addressed to the UN Security Council president and the UN secretary general, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn called for sending a team of UN experts to study the dimensions of this human and environmental catastrophe, and to determine ways of dealing with the problem.

In his message, the foreign minister stressed that this crime, and before it the crime of burying Iraqi soldiers alive, provides additional proof of the U.S. violation of international law, the UN Charter, The Hague Conventions, the Geneva Conventions, the Nuremberg Charter, and numerous disarmament laws. The following is the text of the message:

I am honored to enclose, along with my letter, the articles published by the British weekly, THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY, in its edition of 10 November 1991. In these articles, the weekly made serious disclosures of information contained in a report released by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority [AEA] in April 1991. The report regarded the use by allied troops during the Gulf war of antitank shells made with depleted uranium by allied troops during the Gulf war. The shells contained chemically toxic, as well as radioactive material that poses a threat of large-scale human and ecological catastrophe.

The weekly quoted the report issued by the AEA as saying that tens of thousands of antiarmor shells made with depleted uranium US-238 were fired on Iraqi vehicles from U.S. and British aircraft and tanks, and that the chemically toxic material and radioactive leftovers that were released, and continue to be released by the remnants of these shells, pose a long-term threat to the lives of thousands of people.

The paper cites the report as saying that U.S. tanks fired 5,000 depleted uranium shells and U.S. aircraft fired tens of thousands of rounds on Iraqi vehicles. The shells fired by the tanks alone would contain more than 50,000 libras of depleted uranium—enough radioactive material, according to International Committee for Radiological Protection estimates, to cause 500,000 deaths. The paper gave no estimates of potential deaths as result the radiation resulting from the tens of thousands of such rounds, which were fired by U.S. aircraft on Iraqi cities, villages, and hamlets over 42 days of intensive raids. Definitely, these rounds will be many times this figure.

This dangerous revelation constitutes a new addition to the U.S. crimes that are being exposed daily, the latest and not last of which was the crime of burying thousands of Iraqi soldiers alive, which provides additional evidence of U.S. violations of international law, the UN charter, The Hague and Geneva Conventions, the Nuremberg Charter, and the laws on armed conflict.

Ironically, the United States uses international law, the UN Charter, and the Security Council resolutions as a cover for implementing its crimes against the people of Iraq and the peoples of the region and its environment.

We urge you to send a team of UN experts to study the dimensions of this human and environmental disaster, and to work out ways to deal with it. Through you, we also call on all countries; political, humanitarian, and environmental organizations; and global public opinion to raise their voices, denounce this crime, and demand an immediate termination to the unjust economic blockade of the Iraqi people, so that these people can use their resources to limit the present and long-term effects of the U.S. crimes against them.

Radioactive Equipment Left Behind by British

JN1311121491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—AL-THAWRAH said that the crimes of aggression against Iraq, which are being confirmed every day, expose the reality of the American-Atlantic-Zionist alliance forces, who carried out the ugliest war crimes, violating all norms and principles. The newspaper notes in an article today that the alliance forces left chemically toxic and radioactive military equipment on the battlefield. It also notes Britain's admission that 36,000 kg of depleted armour-piercing uranium shells were left on the battlefield.

The newspaper says: Bush and his European partners did their utmost to portray the dirty aggressive war against Iraq as a clean war. All the feverish attempts and efforts to obliterate the war crimes and hide them from the international community have failed.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The savage, scandalous crimes they committed against the people of Iraq are being revealed one by one, exposing their fabrications and allegations as well as the falsehood of all the ethical values and cultural concepts of which they boasted.

The Iraqi paper recalls some of the crimes committed by the American forces, such as the shelling of al-'Amiriyah shelter in which hundreds of children, women, and elderly were killed; and the burying alive of thousands of Iraqi soldiers in more than one mass grave. In addition to this, the British Forces left chemically toxic radioactive military equipment on the battlefield.

AL-THAWRAH says: The reality of the clean war which Bush, Major, and the other war criminals boasted about has become clear before the people of the world, including Westerners. Thus, they reveal the extent of their neglect and disregard of the international treaties and conventions, which ban the use of chemical and nuclear weapons in wars.

The newspaper describes as ugly the facts and scandals that are being revealed, especially in terms of their disastrous environmental effects. It says the latest crime is a crime of military annihilation of a whole people, in fact, an entire region.

The Iraqi paper adds that the more ridiculous paradox is that while using chemical and radioactive equipement and other criminal weapons, they do not stop bragging about how civilized they are, that their world is superior and progressive, and that they are different from Third World peoples who, according to them, are backward. These crimes, however, represent the ugliest of war crimes, and clearly show that they are backward on the cultural and ethical levels, and that they are barbaric despite their technological and scientific achievements.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This crime clearly reflects the extent of the hidden grudges which the British colonialists harbor against Iraq in particular and the Arab nation in general. It also clearly affirms that all the agreements and treaties on placing war under the control of law as called for by the imperialist West are only meant to protect this West from the prohibited weapons.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The imperialist West insists on leaving the Third World without protection, and on using the Third World countries and territories as a testing ground for its old and new internationally-banned weapons.

Kurds To Discuss Agreement Reached With Baghdad

NC1311162991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] A source in contact with Kurdish negotiators told AFP today that these negotiators will inform the Kurdish groups about the articles of the agreement reached with the tyrant's regime on easing tension in northern Iraq.

The source said the agreement will lift the partial siege imposed by the tyrant's army on some regions in the north, which if maintained, could lead to a new wave of violence.

The source, which asked not to be named, did not mention the contents of this agreement. He added, however, that the five Kurdish officials who arrived in Baghdad last Thursday returned to the north yesterday to hold talks with Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The source affirmed that they did not talk about negotiations regarding autonomy. He pointed out that these negotiations started in May between the Kurdish groups and the tyrant's regime to define the framework for the autonomy demanded by the Kurds and to spread democracy throughout the country.

The negotiators went to Baghdad after the tyrant's regime began stopping truckloads of medicine, food, and fuel headed for al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil. An official in one of the international organizations told AFP that the truckloads were sent back at the barricades set up at the entrance to Karkuk.

Kurdistan Front Evacuates Peshmergas From Cities

NC1311163991 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1603 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Statement issued at the end of the meeting of the Political Command of the Kurdistan Front—announcer read]

[Text] The Political Command of the Kurdistan Front met yesterday with all members attending. In order to calm the current situation, with the aim of assuring the steadfast masses in Kurdistan, and with absolute belief in the people's unity and the inexhaustible strength of the Kurdistan peshmergas, it decided the following:

1. To evacuate the peshmergas of the Kurdistan Front parties and other parties from the cities and to deploy them in positions and centers to be specified by the front.
2. To move all centers outside the cities, with the exception of the Kurdistan Front's center and one center for each party and front members' organization committee.
3. To form coordination committees in these cities and to elect a limited number of committed peshmergas to protect the centers and to manage the work of the coordination committees.
4. To set up a defensive line made up of peshmergas from the Kurdistan Front's forces in necessary places, whose duty will be to defend the inhabitants of Kurdistan's cities.
5. To bring to account and severely punish the peshmergas and armed men who violate the Kurdistan Front's orders.

Signed: The Political Command of the Kurdistan Front on 13 November 1991.

Government Forces Shell Qada' 'Aqrah Villages

NC1311174291 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] After intensively shelling a group of villages in Qada' 'Aqrah with artillery, government forces advanced and took control of (Bardabash), the (Kani Dan) complex, and surrounding villages. More than 24 people were martyred and a number of others were wounded in the shelling. Scores of the citizens' houses also were destroyed.

This new attack by the Iraqi forces on the towns in Kurdistan resulted in displacing the inhabitants of (Bardabash) and surrounding villages. The government forces now are threatening Qada' 'Aqrah.

Kurds' Barzani Urges Intervention in Fighting

TA1411085091 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0820 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Hakkari (A.A)—Iraqi Kurdish leader Ma'sud Barzani has called on international organisations to intervene to stop continuing fighting between Kurdish peshmerga guerrillas and Iraqi troops as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn attempts to reassert his authority in northern Iraq, according to a report issued on Wednesday.

Barzani, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Iraq, was speaking during a report carried by Voice of KDP Radio, monitored in this southeastern province on Tuesday evening.

The report said heavy fighting was continuing along widening battle lines 50 kilometers from the Turkish border in the area of Firdevs [placename as received] Village south of the northern Iraqi town of Irbil as peshmergas put up strong resistance and dug into new positions.

The radio called on peshmergas in the areas to join in the fight against units from Iraq's Fifth Army, which, it said, were shelling peshmergas with heavy cannon fire from time to time.

The report said Iraqi troops had opened fire on civilians in Firdevs Village, killing 25 and wounding another 18.

It added that 12 soldiers had been killed in reprisal raids and ammunition dumps totally destroyed.

Barzani, in his statement to the radio, said attacks by Iraqi troops on Kurdish settlement areas in the last few days were becoming a massacre.

Calling on international organisations to mobilize to put an end to the Iraqi strikes, Barzani said that the situation would soon be beyond repair and that if intervention did not take place the Iraqi attacks would turn to genocide.

The radio also reported great hardship caused by lack of fuel and basic foodstuffs in the face of an embargo applied by Baghdad.

Free Iraq Council Urges Pressure on Saddam

PM1411103691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Nov 91 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Free Iraqi Council Request Saddam's Removal in Appeal to President Bush"]

[Text] London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—The Free Iraqi Council has appealed to world leaders and the United Nations to put pressure on the Saddam Husayn regime to stop it from harming the Iraqi people and continuing to starve them.

An appeal addressed by the council yesterday to U.S. President George Bush in the name of its chairman, Sa'd Salih Jabr, said that the main reason for the continuation of the Iraqi people's suffering is "the tyrant's remaining in power in Baghdad. This has led not only to the continuation of the international economic embargo on Iraq, but also to ever worse catastrophes."

The appeal said that "a few days ago the Saddam authorities started to tighten the embargo on food, medical supplies, and services against the sons of Iraqi Kurdistan. The sources started halting deliveries of food and medical supplies throughout Kurdistan, and also deliveries of international relief supplies, despite their scarcity."

It added: "The tyrant Saddam is also tightening the embargo on food supplies, medical supplies, and services against the sons of central and southern Iraq, and especially the marsh areas where hundreds of thousands of citizens are taking refuge to escape the repression and terror of the regime, whose military forces are besieging it [the area] and bombarding it with artillery and dropping napalm bombs on its inhabitants. The regime's repressive organs are also extending the circle of terror and bloody repression to include the sons of the al-Ramadi area, Baghdad, al-Thawrah City, Mosul, and and Tikrit, whose inhabitants are rising up against the regime as an expression of their rejection of its rule and in protest against the catastrophes of starvation and the lack of the most basic requirements of life in Iraq."

The appeal calls on world leaders to show more interest in this issue and "to put every pressure on the tyrant Saddam regime to stop harming our people and to do all that is necessary to implement Security Council Resolutions 688 and 706."

BABIL Reportedly Ceases Publication

JN1011121291

[Editorial Report] Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 10 November publishes on page 18 the following AFP-datelined report from Baghdad: "In its latest issue yesterday, the newspaper BABIL said that it will cease publication temporarily, together with the weekly magazine AL-RAFIDAYN. Both BABIL and AL-RAFIDAYN are supervised by 'Uday Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president's eldest son. 'Uday, who chairs the board of directors of these two publications, briefly announced this suspension without giving any reasons."

Two Helicopters Fly to Iran, Crews Seek Asylum

PM1411125391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10 Nov 91 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Two Iraqi Aircraft Fly to Iran"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, Damascus, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Reliable Iranian and Iraqi sources have emphasized that two Iraqi helicopters landed on Iranian territory three days ago and that their crews requested political asylum. The sources said that the two helicopters had been assigned to shell the area of marshes in southern Iraq with chemical weapons, but the two pilots refused to carry out the orders and headed for Iranian territory.

Iraqi opposition sources have said that a campaign of executions that has included a number of Iraqi officers, among them two colonels, coincided with the dismissal of the former Iraqi defense minister and the appointment of 'Ali al-Majid as his successor. [passage omitted]

Oath for RCC Chairman, Deputy, Members Amended

JN1111155591 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Baghdad, INA—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to amend Article 39 of the Constitution.

Following is the text of the decision:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The RCC. Decision No. 398.

Date of the decision: 28 Rabi' Thani, 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 5 November 1991.

Decision:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph (B) of Article 66 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1—Article 39 of the Constitution shall be amended and will read as follows:

Article 39.

The RCC chairman, his deputy, and members, shall take the following oath before the RCC:

I swear by God the great, my honor, and my beliefs to safeguard the Republican system; to be bound by the principles of the great 17-30 July revolution, its principles, and laws, and to look after the interests of the people; to safeguard the independence, dignity, and welfare of Iraq, and to accomplish the Arab nation's goals of unity, freedom, and socialism. May God be witness to my words.

2—This decision shall take force as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

RCC Decision Extends Amnesty for Army Deserters

JN1411101691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decision that regards Decision No. 242 of 21 July 1991 valid for five months starting from the day of its issuance. Following is the text of the new decision:

Based on Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decided the following:

1. RCC Decision 242 of 21 July 1991 shall be considered valid for five months starting from the date of its issuance.
2. This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette, and concerned ministers shall see to its enforcement

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn.

On 21 July, the RCC issued a decision stating:

1. The following shall benefit from a general amnesty:

A. Deserters from military service, draft dodgers, and those who fled the country during their military service. All legal proceedings pending against them are to be terminated, whether they are inside or outside Iraq, with the exception of army officers.
B. Any citizen or government employee who may have committed any action while performing their duty in combating or dealing with any of the crimes listed therein. All pending cases against them are to be suspended, and courts shall not hear any cases brought against them in connection with any of the actions mentioned in this decision.

2. Clause A of Paragraph 1 of this decision covers all those who surrendered themselves or were apprehended from 20 March 1991 up to the enforcement of this decision.

3. This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and take effect on the date of its release.

4. The concerned ministers shall see to its implementation.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn.

Minister Husayn Receives New ICRC Official

JN1111132891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn this morning received (Arthur Besik), head of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission, on the occasion of his assignment as chairman of the ICRC mission in Baghdad. Discussion focused on ways to reinforce cooperation and coordination between Iraq and the ICRC, particularly with regard to the victims of the aggressive war—such as prisoners of war and civilians—in terms of alleviating their suffering and that of their families in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Convention and the rules of international and human law.

The foreign minister called on the ICRC to confront the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. The foreign minister urged the head of the mission to work for the return of Iraqi POW's in Iran to their homeland, Iraq, as well as for the return of Iraqis held in Kuwaiti and Saudi prisons.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Legal Department at the Foreign Ministry.

National Assembly To Urge Lifting of Blockade

JN1111134991 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 9 Nov 91 pp 12, 13

[Interview with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih by Ilham 'Abd-al-Karim in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Karim] Mr. Speaker, we have become acquainted with projects the National Assembly will discuss during its fall session through statements by ministers published in the Iraqi papers. Our question specifically pertains to the issues that will be discussed on a political level both at home and diplomatically, that is, abroad. What does the National Assembly plan to do in this respect?

[Salih] There is nothing new on the domestic front. The assembly will devote its attention to its primary role; namely, legislation, since this is the national duty of the assembly. As for activities to be conducted outside of Iraq, we have many such activities planned both for the present and in the next stage. [passage omitted]

A National Assembly delegation will soon leave for the Arab Maghreb with instructions to work for lifting the blockade against Iraq and for halting any interference in its domestic affairs. The delegation will ask the parliaments of the countries to be visited to work in this same direction. We will have meetings with many political movements to garner support for our stands. Another delegation will visit Yemen soon for the same purpose. Just before we began this interview, we were discussing with the assembly's deputy speaker the formation of a delegation that will go to the Soviet Union at the invitation of a parliamentary group called Soyuz. It goes without saying that discussions with this group will include, among other things, the issue of the aggression and the economic blockade. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Karim] While we are talking about the enemy's methods to weaken the people and undermine their morale, let me note that there are rumors that the United Nations has landed one of its teams at the Tirbil border post to prevent any supplies from being sent to Iraq. How true are these rumors?

[Salih] I would like to say one thing here. The Iraqi people have lived through a rich, but very dangerous experience. They have also experienced harsh psychological warfare where hundreds of rumors are circulated. What has been the result? It has been proved to everyone that all of these were tendentious rumors seeking to further harm us. We must not believe these rumors. We are in a state of constant conflict with our enemies, who continue to implement their schemes, and psychological warfare and the propagation of rumors are a part of these schemes.

Now, if the United Nations is indeed carrying out such a role, then this certainly is a blatant deviation from its charter and an aggression against human rights. This means that they want to exterminate an entire people. If the United Nations really carries out such a role, then it has lost its humanitarian role and its credibility and has departed from the laws which regulate its duties. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Karim] What about the Ba'th Party's status in light of the law on political parties?

[Salih] The law is clear. The Ba'th Party is a party which has existed in Iraq for many years. It is true that the Ba'th Party has operated under cover or in the open as dictated by the circumstances being experienced by the country until the emergence of the 17-30 July revolution when work began in the open. It is a well known party; it has its bases and its followers. The law on parties defines how parties will be formed, as well as the framework for their action. Our party already exists. But if there is a need to apply for a license, then this is a routine procedure and not a complicated one. The party fulfills all the conditions that are enunciated in the law.

['Abd-al-Karim] What about the parties that are currently within the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, as well as the recognized Kurdish parties? Will they adjust their state of affairs, or will they apply for new licenses?

[Salih] All of the parties have announced that they will adjust themselves in accordance with the new law and, if necessary, will apply for new licenses. [pasage omitted]

Hammudi Named Arab Popular Forces Head

JN1311174291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—It has been decided to name Sa'd Qasim Hammudi as secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces [APF] conference.

The APF's third conference, which was held in Baghdad between 10 and 13 October, decided to name a secretary general from Iraq and to make Baghdad the site of the APF General Secretariat headquarters.

Rumored Cancellation of 100-Dinar Bill 'Groundless'

JN1111202591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—Rumors being spread by some people, about a planned cancellation of the 100-dinar bill, are groundless and designed to create confusion and to sabotage the national economy.

In a statement to INA, an Iraqi Central Bank official source said that recent rumors, spread by biased and hostile circles claiming that there are plans to cancel the 100-dinar bill, are absolutely false. [passage omitted]

High Salinity Limits Water for Agricultural Use

JN1311142491 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 2

[By Yasir al-Mutawalli]

[Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Sattar Salman, senior under secretary at the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry, stated that the implementation of many big projects in the riverhead countries affected the quality and quantity of water reaching Iraq, particularly the Euphrates basin.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH, the minister added: For this reason the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry devoted special attention to this problem, and set quotas on water used for agricultural purposes.

He added that Iraq has not fully exploited its subterranean water reserves, and that studies are now being carried out in this field to search for other water sources to be used for irrigation. He said this was being done since the quality of water pouring into the Euphrates basin from across the Syrian-Iraqi borders deteriorated because of the high salinity of the water, which exceeds levels acceptable for agriculture. [passage omitted]

Government Ready To Hold Bilateral Talks in Cyprus

TA1311180091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor has learned that this evening Israel expressed its readiness to hold the bilateral negotiations with the Arab countries in Cyprus. Our correspondent adds that the Israeli proposal was made to overcome the obstacles to the holding of the next round of negotiations, after the Arab states refused to conduct negotiations in the region.

Hadas Named as Head of Both Negotiating Teams

TA1311163991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Nov 91 p 1

[By Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Yosef Hadas, acting Foreign Ministry director general, will head both negotiating committees the ministry was given to chair—one with Lebanon and the other for the multilateral negotiations. Senior Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday that if the schedules of the two forums should conflict, Israel "would ask for understanding."

Officials in Jerusalem have claimed that Hadas was appointed to head both teams for lack of appropriate candidates. Foreign Minister David Levi's associates, however, denied this allegation, claiming that even if Hadas is appointed, the appointment is only temporary "until we find an appropriate candidate to head the other committee." [sentence as published]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 13 November in a report by 'Aqiva Eldar on page A1 adds: "Acting Foreign Ministry General Yosef Hadas will probably be appointed the head of the team for talks with Lebanon after he completes the preparations for the multilateral talks."]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir decided to give the Foreign Ministry the chair of those two committees to solve the crisis between himself and Levi. It should be noted that, legally, Hadas ceased being acting Foreign Ministry director general about a month ago because the ministry's regulations specify that such an appointment is only made for three months. That time passed without Hadas' appointment being extended.

Because a permanent director general has not yet been appointed, Hadas is still holding his previous position as deputy director general for West Europe. He has also been involved with the preparations for the negotiations with Lebanon and the multilateral forum.

In addition, as Levi told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Hadas is about to leave for the PRC soon, at the invitation of the PRC Government. Sources in Jerusalem noted that the Chinese had asked that Hadas' visit remain a secret until he actually arrives in Beijing.

Yesterday, Hadas met Defense Minister Moshe Arens and the two discussed the security and arms supervision issues that are to be discussed at the multilateral forum and are under the responsibility of the Defense Ministry.

The two also discussed the appointment of a Defense Ministry deputy for Hadas on the Lebanon committee. The Foreign Ministry has also appointed Eytan Bentzur, deputy director general for North Africa, as deputy for Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein on the committee for the discussions with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. David Afeq, head of the Foreign Ministry Research Division, was appointed deputy to Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, on the committee for talks with the Syrians.

Sharon—'Quickly Annex' Settlements in Territories

TA1311212491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said this evening that Israel should quickly annex territories in Judaea and Samaria that are settled by Jews, if it is decided to embark on the path of autonomy. Addressing hundreds of Likud members in Ra'anana, Minister Sharon said that the autonomy plan was, in fact, devised to allow Egypt sign a peace agreement with us. He believes that the road we are currently taking will bring bloodshed. This was reported by our correspondent Yafa Glick.

'Serious Fears' Over 'High Profile' of Peace Talks

TA1411095791 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Drora Perl]

[Excerpt] On the eve of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's trip to the United States, political sources in Jerusalem said the political process was "stuck" and voiced serious fears about the "high profile" Washington is trying to give the multilateral conference. Sources in the prime minister's bureau last night voiced their fears that the United States was trying to turn this forum into "a camouflaged international conference."

In a message Foreign Minister David Levi sent to Secretary of State James Baker yesterday, Israel demands that the United States consult it on the format of and the topics to be discussed at the multilateral conference. The Jerusalem sources noted their anger at the fact that the United States has been coordinating the format of the multilateral conference with various countries, but has not consulted Israel on the matter.

The sources went on to say that within the next few days Israel would launch independent contacts with various parties scheduled to attend the regional forum—such as Japan, Canada, and the EC—to apprise them of Israel's expectations from the meeting and to make sure that it does not become yet another "tribunal."

In his message, Levi asks Baker that the United States allow the bilateral negotiations between Israel and its neighbors to be exhausted without any outside intervention. The Jerusalem sources said the United States was not making any effort to persuade the Arab countries to agree to direct talks with Israel in order to discuss the procedures of the direct negotiations.

Levi's message is coached in friendly language and includes high praise of Baker's work, as well as a statement reiterating Israel's continued commitment to the peace process. Nevertheless, officials in Jerusalem said they hoped the United States would "get the message" and realize Israel's dissatisfaction with the one-sided steps it has taken recently.

The foreign minister goes on to call on the United States to make good on its promise to bring about the cancellation of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism at the current session of the UN General Assembly. Although in his meeting Monday with Jewish leaders in New York, President Bush said "now is the time" to abolish the resolution and noted that the United States is making "every effort" on the issue, reports arriving in Jerusalem from the Israeli UN delegation show doubt that the United States is doing anything at all in this direction. Contrary to U.S. statements, Israeli officials believe that a solid majority can be mustered in favor of abolishing the resolution.

Jerusalem is still angry at the negative leading role played by Egypt in its attempts to undermine the cancellation of the resolution. On the other hand, reports reaching Jerusalem note that Prime Minister Shamir's speech at the Madrid conference triggered a positive response in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, which observed that Shamir "had not slammed doors" with his speech. [passage omitted]

'No Change' in Mubarak Stand on Palestinians

TA1311235791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2005 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Interview with Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, by Yoram Ronen, in the Jerusalem Television studio following the broadcast of the Mubarak interview—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ronen] President Mubarak is perhaps not presenting many changes to his basic stands, but perhaps—following the Madrid conference, which you attended—he hinted, or even more than that, that he would be willing to mediate between us and Syria, if we give him something to hold on to. Why should we not do that?

[Ben-Elisar] Egypt very much wanted to play an important role, possibly a major role, in Madrid and in the process. By saying something to hold on to, he means that we should give Mubarak the opportunity to play that role. In fact, he wants to say: You should guarantee up front that you are willing to withdraw. Who ever heard of anything like that?

[Ronen] Is that something to hold on to?

[Ben-Elisar] That is what he means. The negotiations have not yet started. The discussions have hardly started, in fact. I believe that Mubarak missed the goal he set for himself by far. He really wanted to address the Israeli public. His last sentence praised peace; thank you very much—as if we do not know that peace is great, or how sad it is to shed blood. What did he say? How did he define Israel's policy? We keep saying no. Have Syria and Jordan always said yes? He makes it sound as if they always have been willing to negotiate with us, and we were the ones who kept saying no. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Do you see in the interview any change in Mubarak's stand on the Palestinian issue, that, in fact, he prefers a confederation with Jordan to a Palestinian state?

[Ben-Elisar] No. There is no change. Incidentally, he also said that the best solution would be an independent Palestinian state that all the parties would accept. This is the Egyptian line: They want a Palestinian state. In order not to damage the process and not upset the Israelis too much....

[Ronen, interrupting] He showed some disrespect for the Palestinians, did he not?

[Ben-Elisar] He showed disrespect indeed. This, incidentally, is not such a good sign. If he does not respect those Palestinians, perhaps he does respect others that I would not even think of. Regrettably, he does think about them. He knows very well that he should not make us angry; he is afraid to do that. At the same time, he does not want to upset the others as well. In general, this part of the interview was not sympathetic; far from that. There is no doubt in my mind that the Israelis realized that.

[Ronen] What do you say are the chances for a Mubarak-Shamir meeting? He repeated his well-known stand that such a meeting must be well prepared, and held only if results are guaranteed. Perhaps we could initiate such a meeting. Perhaps we could tell President Mubarak: Okay, there will be a meeting with the prime minister, but you must guarantee this and that beforehand.

[Ben-Elisar] It is a shame that we are dealing with this issue at all. We must not raise the issue of a meeting between Israel's prime minister and Egypt's president. President Mubarak always has wanted Israel to pay for a meeting with him. Incidentally, he asked, and we agreed to pay for a meeting in Alexandria, when then Prime Minister Shim'on Peres met Mubarak. We paid by agreeing to the arbitration on Tabah. This was Peres' calling card in Alexandria. I do not know many countries that are willing to pay for a summit meeting between the heads of both states with assets or other things. It is regretful that we are even talking about it.

[Ronen] Perhaps he means some gesture?

[Ben-Elisar] No, he means no gesture. He means goods, or an asset. After all, he said it. He plainly said: What will the Egyptian people say if I met Mr. Shamir and got nothing. I can say one thing for Mubarak: He speaks openly. It is good that we heard what he said. I believe we should believe him. [passage omitted]

U.S. Plan for Golan Heights Disengagement Viewed

TA1311204791 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Nov 91 p 1

[By military correspondent]

[Text] The intelligence agency of the U.S. Department of Defense, the Pentagon's equivalent of the CIA, has recently worked out an initial plan for building a "framework" of confidence-building measures and security between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights.

The plan, according to a lieutenant colonel in the CIA in Washington, is based on the experience of the United States and the USSR in building similar frameworks for disarmament and arms reduction, and lowering tension between NATO and the Warsaw Pact when the latter still existed.

The plan is based on the U.S. intelligence evaluation that for the near future the Golan Heights will remain under Israeli sovereignty, but that steps would be taken for a possible demilitarization of the area.

The aim of the plan, according to the source, is to provide the Departments of Defense and State with relevant policy papers if and when the bilateral talks between Syria and Israel call for it, or when one of the sides calls for U.S. aid on the issue.

The main points in the plan include a mutual withdrawal by both armies to a distance of 5 km from the present disengagement line in order to set up a deep buffer zone. UN forces or, alternatively, U.S. or European troops would be deployed in the area. The document also advocates a mutual reduction of troops on both sides of the buffer zone that would be set up.

PRC Agriculture Minister—Diplomatic Ties 'Soon'

TA1411090191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Nov 91 p 1,13

[By Shim'on Schiffer and Rome correspondent Yosi Be'er]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Chinese Agriculture Minister Liu Zhongyi told his Israeli counterpart, Refa'el Eytan, that he hoped that diplomatic relations between the two countries would be resumed soon.

In an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Minister Eytan said that he had met with the Chinese agriculture minister during the course of the international food conference in Rome. "The meeting was warm and friendly. We spoke about improving agricultural relations between the two countries," Eytan said.

The agriculture minister added that he now intended to prepare a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the Chinese. "I invited the Chinese agriculture minister and Chinese agricultural experts to visit Israel," he noted. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 14 November in a page 19 report by Navit Zomer notes that "unofficial figures show that the scope of imports to Israel from the PRC reaches $15 million. Exports to the PRC in 1991 totalled $23.5 million."]

It was also learned that another large Israeli economic delegation will leave for a first tour of communist Vietnam in approximately two months. Israel has no diplomatic relations with Vietnam.

The delegation was invited to tour Vietnam by the local chamber of commerce to begin establishing import and export trade and investments between the two countries. [passage omitted]

'High-Level' Economic Group To Visit PRC

TA1311154891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Nov 91 p 1

[By political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] We are seeing significant progress in Israeli-PRC relations. For the first time ever, a high-level economic delegation will leave Israel for the PRC next week.

The delegation will hold talks with the Chinese economic leadership and meet with ministers for the first time. The delegation includes Dani Gillerman, the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce; Bank Leumi Chairman Moshe Zambar; El Al Director General Rafi Harlev; Aharon Fogel, former budget director in the Treasury; Moshe Schnitzer, president of the Diamond Merchants Association; and Ari'el Ginsburg, director general of the Dead Sea Works.

It has been learned that the Chinese want the delegation to start negotiations on bilateral agreements on trade, aviation, and so forth.

The Israeli delegation will be in the PRC for 10 days and will visit Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou.

The official hosts will be the Chinese Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Council and its chairman Wu Hong Yan [name and title as published].

Chief of Staff on Reports of Budget Irregularities

TA1311202891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Nov 91 p 3

[By Yoram Bar and Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq has set up a committee to coordinate the various mechanisms governing the defense establishment's cash flow and procurement expenses. Brigadier General Mikha'el Navon, the chief of staff's economic adviser, will head the committee. It will operate over a broad scope to examine efficiency, economizing, and the mechanisms controlling the use of dollar aid vis-a-vis shekel procurement. It will make recommendations concerning long-term supervision and control mechanisms. Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Chief of Staff Baraq said that the report that the purchase budget was exceeded by $0.5 billion was blown out of proportion.

According to him, there has been no irregularity in the cash flow, and the defense establishment is using its own resources, while adhering to the U.S. aid terms. The chief of staff explained that due to an enhancement of procurement plans, an irregular amount of money was used, which called for a correction.

According to Baraq, the problem is one of cash flow and not of budget. The question that was raised concerns updated coordination between the calculations of the expense flow to finance the purchases and the income flow to the procurement budget. He noted that in the past there have been cases where the two did not correspond the other way: Some $100 to $200 million budgeted was not used. The irregularity this time is the result of moving up the purchases of planes, Apache helicopters, and other equipment.

Baraq was replying to a query by Knesset Member Ya'ir Tzaban, who asked to know who is responsible for the fact that $0.5 billion was spent by the procurement delegation in the United States outside the allocated budget and what consequences this might have on the defense budget and Army procurements. [passage omitted]

Shin Bet Head on Use of Force in Interrogations

TA1111054491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] The head of the Shin Bet Security Service has rejected charges that detainees died as a result of applying moderate physical pressure, as sanctioned by the Landau Report in its recommendations on the Security Service several years ago. The ITIM News Agency says that the Shin Bet position was submitted to the High Court of Justice in reply to a petition brought by a group called The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel.

The Shin Bet head said that the charges filed had been examined on an individual basis, and in one case only had a security prisoner died as a result of violence during an interrogation. The two investigators responsible, he said, had been tried, sentenced to six months imprisonment, and dismissed from the service. He also disclosed that a special committee set up to look into interrogation methods had found that other investigators, particularly at the Gaza Prison, had strayed from the Landau recommendation. Those involved had been dismissed.

The Shin Bet head said also he could not reveal the interrogation system permitted, since this would uncover the operational methods of the security service. Moderate physical force was applied, he said, only when the public welfare was threatened by a prisoner. The service commander said he was convinced that during the intifadah it had not been possible to thwart effectively the actions of terror groups by questioning suspects without having recourse in certain cases to the Landau recommendations on the use of force.

Soviet Immigration To Reach 1 Million in 1992

TA1311172591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli leaders have been given a forecast that Soviet immigration next year will reach 1 million, THE JERUSALEM REPORT says in its issue to be published tomorrow.

It reports that intelligence and senior aliyah elements made that forecast in a secret briefing to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister Ari'el Sharon, chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah. According to the forecasts, the dire economic situation in the USSR and the rise in violence there will spur aliyah of Jews, who otherwise might have decided to remain in the USSR in view of the difficulties in finding housing and work in Israel. It was also said in the briefing that between 10 million and 20 million Soviet citizens are roaming the USSR looking for work or ways to leave the country.

More Than 4,000 Immigrants Since 1990 Leave Israel

TA1411094891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Nov 91 p 3

[By Natan Ro'i]

[Text] Interior Ministry records show that 2,780 of the new immigrants who left Israel in 1990 did not return; another 1,347 who left before August 1991 did not return to the country.

Over 15,000 immigrants received transit visas from the beginning of 1990 until August 1991. These permits allowed them to leave the country.

The records delivered to the Interior Ministry's information and computerization department show that 10,347 transit visas were issued by the office in 1990; an additional 5,904 visas were issued up to August 1991.

The data shows that 4,767 immigrants left the country in 1990. Another 2,102 immigrants left for abroad by August 1991.

The records reveal that not only Soviet immigrants left Israel, but also immigrants from other countries.

During 1990, 3,170 Soviet immigrants left the country; up till August 1991 another 1,560 immigrants left Israel.

Palestinian Members Invited to HADASH Congress

TA1211210491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Leaders and activists of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality [HADASH] visited members of the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Gaza and invited them to attend the Front's third congress, which is expected to be convened in Nazareth next Friday. Some members of the Palestinian delegation responded positively to this invitation.

Military Court Sentences Peace March Participants

TA1111122791 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] The Nabulus military court yesterday fined and sentenced three local residents who had taken part in peace demonstrations in the city to eight days in prison. The three participated in a peace march in the city last Monday, in the course of which soldiers were offered olive branches. The military prosecutor described the peace marches as "the expression of a grave and dangerous phenomenon" and asked the court to sentence the defendants to 70 days in prison and fine them 1,000 Israeli shekels. Instead, the court sentenced them to eight days in prison and a two-month suspended sentence and fined them 250 shekels. The three are scheduled to go free this morning after serving their sentence.

Prime Minister Told To 'Mend Fences' With House

JN1311163291 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Nov 91 pp 1, 25

[By Khalil Khurmah from Amman]

[Text] AL-BAYAN has learned that King Husayn of Jordan has given the government of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri until 20 November to mend fences with the House of Representatives.

Informed sources told AL-BAYAN that this grace period paves the way for the Jordanian monarch to use his constitutional powers to adjourn the House session and form a new cabinet.

Recently, the chances of forming a cabinet comprising Jordanian leading personalities increased in light of the difficulties being encountered by al-Masri's cabinet, now that the new parliamentary session is approaching and due to convene on 1 December.

The difficulties with al-Masri's cabinet have worsened after it responded favorably to demands made by the IMF calling for increasing direct taxes levied on local products, decreasing the customs imposed on imported commodities, and reducing staple subsidies—a matter which caused many average Jordanians to grumble.

Furthermore, friction between the government and the opposition within the House of Representatives has increased. This poses the threat that confidence in the government could be withheld during the upcoming House session. Hence, al-Masri is endeavoring to placate parliamentary blocs to ensure a parliamentary majority for his government that would keep it in office. The prime minister is attempting to avoid the submission of a confidence vote by way of a comprehensive cabinet reshuffling involving most parliamentary blocs.

Al-Masri is currently holding intensive consultations with parliamentary factions, but no result has so far been announced. The Islamic movement, which has 23 deputies in the House, refuses to be part of any Jordanian Government that would forge ahead with the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations; however, the movement promised al-Masri that it would not submit a no-confidence motion if he effects a cabinet reshuffle and responds favorably to a host of conditions, including ending arrests within the ranks of the movement supporters, easing media restrictions, permitting AL-RIBAT, mouthpiece of the movement, to be published, and supporting 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, the movement's candidate for the House of Representatives' speakership.

With regard to the Constitutional Bloc, which has 18 deputies in the House, it is demanding five portfolios in any new cabinet, as well as the House speakership.

Royal Court Chief May Form New Government

NC1411125191 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Amman, Nov 14 (AFP)—Jordan's King Husayn could soon ask the chief of his royal court to form a new government to replace the cabinet led by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, parliamentary sources said here Thursday.

Marshal Zayd ibn-Shakir would be asked to step in because al-Masri's efforts to reshuffle his government have apparently failed, the sources said.

Al-Masri has had consultations with the heads of various parliamentary blocs over the past few days to seek their vote of confidence in a new government but the talks have foundered, the sources said.

The Jordanian premier told AFP this week he was considering a major government shake-up after 49 members of the 80-seat parliament signed a petition against him.

Ibn-Shakir, head of an eight-month transitional government in 1989 that paved the way for Jordan's first legislative elections in 22 years, could be asked to take over within 48 hours.

The sources said Ibn-Shakir was likely to obtain more parliamentary backing than al-Masri, whose cabinet was formed June 19 and was partially reshuffled on October 3.

Delegation Head on Madrid Talks

TA1311191091 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 12

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of Jordanian delegation at Madrid peace conference, by Khalid Abu-'Akir in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-'Akir] What did you achieve as a joint delegation in the Madrid conference?

[Al-Majali] The conference was historic in the sense that it confirmed to the entire world the existence of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian problem after the other side denied it and used all means to obliterate that reality. In addition, the conference affirmed the clarity of the Jordanian identity. This clear identity stands alongside the Palestinian identity. We are brothers who support each other. The conference made clear to the entire world that there are two identities, despite the work of two delegations within the framework of one delegation. This is extremely important for us, because the Israelis were claiming that Jordan is Palestine and that the Palestinians should adopt Jordan as their homeland. This phase requires us Jordanians, and you Palestinians, to be very cautious and to carry out our task with careful precision; otherwise, we will be exposed to damage. We are authorized by our leaders to defend our rights, not to harm others. We have been sent to defend our rights, to stand by our nation, and to return with achievements that allow us to attain our people's aspirations.

[Abu-'Akir] The Palestinian presence was conspicuous during the conference's convocation, while the Jordanian delegation worked in the shadows. Why did you move away from the limelight?

[Al-Majali] Our mission and instructions were to help the Palestinian personality to become visible. We have a state, but the Palestinians do not have one. They need to be conspicuous more than we do. We wished to stress that we entered the conference to support the Palestinian rights and the Palestinian cause. I believe that the role we played conforms to the nature of the current phase.

[Abu-'Akir] You read a joint statement following the preparatory meeting of the bilateral negotiations. Don't you think that such a statement was premature, since the other Arab delegations did not release similar statements?

[Al-Majali] I affirmed what occurred inside the room; that is, that we explained our understanding of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and that there is a Palestinian-Israeli track and a Jordanian-Israeli track. That is something that people should be aware of. The Israeli side acknowledged that but expressed its reservation over the Palestinian-Israeli track, noting that the agenda of that track is autonomy. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi had reservations about the priorities of the Israeli proposal, which will be recorded when the Palestinian and Israeli delegations meet.

[Abu-'Akir] Can the Israeli reservation be considered as backing down from the joint agreement reached by you?

[Al-Majali] It is not a retreat, because the Israeli side did not recognize this agreement. This is what was proposed and what was achieved. The statement summed up what took place. We came for peace; we did not come to fight, to abuse, or to record positions.

[Abu-'Akir] But differences arose over the priorities of the proposal.

[Al-Majali] What I read was confirmed by the Israeli delegation, which noted that the agenda will be autonomy, whereas Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi expressed his reservation about this, pointing out that he is free to raise any priority. This is not a dispute, but a viewpoint that will probably be resolved in future meetings.

[Abu-'Akir] Since there is a Palestinian-Israeli disagreement over the priorities, what can you do?

[Al-Majali] The side that puts forward a proposal should use logic and reason. Should the disagreement continue, the meeting will be adjourned and we will go back to the cosponsors of the conference so that they may hear the views of the two sides. Then they will intervene to resolve the issue.

[Abu-'Akir] Is that what you intend to do if the bilateral negotiations reach a dead end?

[Al-Majali] We will do that if we reach a dead end, but we should strive to reach agreement and not raise issues of dispute. We are not children, but men who have important missions, and those missions determine what you should and should not do. The situation should be looked at in this way, not in terms of black and white.

[Abu-'Akir] What are the priorities of the Jordanian side in the bilateral negotiations?

[Al-Majali] We cannot address this subject now because it is not in the public interest to raise our priorities before meeting and reaching agreement on the agenda.

[Abu-'Akir] What are the bases on which the Palestinian and Jordanian sides rely in the coordination process?

[Al-Majali] We have formed joint committees for all kinds of topics. Those committees will meet before a topic is raised, and they will reach agreement on it. When the talks end, we will meet again to assess what happened and adopt the suitable position.

[Abu-'Akir] During the negotiations the Palestinians will put forward the Palestinian understanding of the interim period and the process of transferring power from the occupation authority to the national authority. What role will you fulfill to confront the Israeli objection to the Palestinian plan?

[Al-Majali] We will support the Palestinian brothers and will discuss numerous issues with them. We will not interfere in the Palestinian problem except to the extent of support that they wish. We will absolutely not involve ourselves in any problem in which they do not want us to interfere, but we will support them with all our might.

[Abu-'Akir] What about coordination with the Arab delegations? How was it realized during the conference?

[Al-Majali] There was little time for Arab coordination because events happened at such a quick pace that Arab delegations could not sit together to coordinate. We should understand that coordination is between brothers with equal rights and duties. We cannot achieve this unless a unified position is adopted. The preparatory conference is over. We hope that coordination will begin in the near future and a unified position will be adopted.

[Abu-'Akir] Who is responsible for the lack of coordination?

[Al-Majali] Harsh circumstances and a shortage of time. These conditions do not allow you to engage in contacts and coordination, particularly when you do not know what will be raised at the conference. The cosponsors of the conference did not put forward a clear and specific agenda, and there was no specific agenda to be followed. Their only aim was to bring us around the negotiations table. Coordination should take place before, not after, an event occurs.

[Abu-'Akir] You mentioned harsh circumstances. Can you explain the nature of those circumstances?

[Al-Majali] I mean that the time between the announcement of the date of the conference, the formation of delegations, and the preparation of the was very short.

[Abu-'Akir] Following the end of the preparatory meeting of the bilateral negotiations, you informed the U.S. secretary of state that you could not reach agreement with the Israeli delegation over the venue of bilateral negotiations. Why did you disagree over the venue?

[Al-Majali] We proposed Madrid and said that we insist on Madrid, but if this was not possible we would accept any neutral venue. The Israelis said that Madrid was unacceptable and that they want the negotiations to be held in the Middle East. We reject this.

[Abu-'Akir] Why?

[Al-Majali] Because this will lead to the end of the conference before it begins. At the conclusion of the conference, meetings should be held in venues that are near. Agreeing to negotiate in the Middle East is some sort of normalization. We cannot start normalization before a fundamental discussion of the issue. You do not read the end of a book before reading the preface.

[Abu-'Akir] Washington is being proposed as a possible venue for the bilateral meetings. Do you consider the U.S. capital to be a neutral venue?

[Al-Majali] I have no objection to Washington. We regard it as a neutral venue because the cosponsors of the conference are the United States and the Soviet Union. One cannot call them other than neutrals.

[Abu-'Akir] But Washington still places the PLO and Syria on the list of states that encourage terrorism. Do you consider this neutrality?

[Al-Majali] When the cosponsor of the conference decides that the meeting should be held in Washington, he naturally took these standards into consideration. All these difficulties will be overcome. Perhaps this decision is to pave the way for declaring that Syria is not terrorist and to allowing the PLO to attend. The negotiations, however, are not with the PLO, but with the Palestinian delegation that will conduct the negotiations. We hope that Washington's stance toward the PLO will soften.

[Abu-'Akir] Are there Jordanian conditions for holding the conference in Washington?

[Al-Majali] We have no conditions. We seek peace and search for it in every place.

[Abu-'Akir] There is internal Palestinian and Jordanian opposition to the peace conference. After taking part in the opening sessions of the conference, what is your view about this opposition?

[Al-Majali] I believe that there is unwarranted pessimism. They are on the same wavelength with Israel in rejecting peace. Israel circulates rumors through its various media in order to support the skeptics so that the peace process will not advance, because they have no interest in peace. I would like to stress here that we are taking part in the conference to struggle for restoring our legitimate rights, not to renounce those rights.

[Abu-'Akir] Your reference to pessimism indicates that you are optimistic. Why this optimism at a time when we are suffering from Arab fragmentation, weakness, and discord?

[Al-Majali] I will continue to be optimistic until I go into the grave. Optimism is part of my faith. The optimist looks at things more clearly; the pessimist sees only black. The optimist can see things as they are and stops when he sees that matters are not favorable to him. The pessimist does not go into battle because he does not possess the power that the optimist has on going into battle. The battle of peace is a battle of knowledge, logic, perception, and justice. It requires courage and daring.

[Abu-'Akir] Can you explain why you consider the peace process a battle?

[Al-Majali] This battle is an endeavor of give and take with the other party, in order to retrieve the legitimate Arab rights, about which the countries are talking. We want to get back the land in return for peace, not the land in return of peace. [sentence as published] There is a major difference between these two. We are ready to give peace in return for the restoration of the land—the restoration of our occupied land and the immense waters that were wrested away. In addition, the Palestinian people should be allowed to determine their own destiny as they wish.

Cabinet Deliberations on Domestic Issues Reported

NC1311222591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Statement and remarks by Information Minister Albert Mansur to unidentified correspondents following a meeting of the Lebanese Council of Ministers on 13 November in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] At the beginning of the cabinet meeting, President Ilyas al-Hirawi noted the painful attempt which took place at the campus of the American University in Beirut [AUB]. The cabinet denounced the AUB bombing and considered it an attempt to hamper the peace process. The cabinet agreed that the peace process will continue despite all attempts to undermine it or slow it down. The cabinet voiced the need to consolidate security and reinforce the peace process.

The president also noted that he returned a number of laws to the parliament for further debate. The president said that parliamentary and democratic norms will be fully upheld.

Prime Minister Karami commented on reports concerning differences among top officials. He said that these reports aim to cast doubts on the peace process, adding that they are completely groundless.

Foreign Minister Buwayz then briefed the cabinet on the Madrid conference and the talks that the Lebanese delegation held there.

The justice minister then briefed the cabinet on the measures he took with regard to the diluted gasoline issue. He said that the attorney general is investigating the matter and has referred those responsible for the gasoline shipment to the appropriate courts.

The cabinet then discussed matters on its agenda, deciding on a number of them and postponing others for further study.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, concerning the situation in the south, it has been said that there are (?conditions) concerning the Israeli withdrawal. How correct are such reports?

[Mansur] I must clarify this point. You are probably referring to the Jazzin issue. I would like to stress the following: First, Jazzin is not more important than any other village or town in the occupied strip. Second, Jazzin is important and so is the liberation of any other part of the Lebanese land to the Lebanese state, cabinet, and public. Third, we will not allow Jazzin to become an issue over which the Lebanese Government is blackmailed. These three points are essential. Jazzin is important, but not more or less so than any other Lebanese town. We will not allow it to be used to blackmail the Lebanese Government. This is the view of the Lebanese cabinet. Therefore, any talk about offers in this regard is wrong and untrue.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, what was the Israeli position during the talks? Lebanon has demanded the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. What was Israel's response?

[Mansur] Matters are not at this stage yet. Lebanon has brought forward the issue of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and we are still discussing procedural matters concerning that matter. We have not yet arrived at the stage you are talking about.

[Correspondent] What about the refugee issue?

[Mansur] Today we have not discussed this issue.

Government Solidarity Stressed

NC1411074991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Three issues dominated the discussion at the cabinet meeting last night. The first was government solidarity in light of some ministers's performance, and here President Ilyas al-Hirawi stressed the need to achieve such solidarity. The second was Lebanon's position at the Middle East peace negotiations, and here a heated discussion took place that ended with a statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz that he expects Resolution 425 to be implemented within four months. The third issue was the scandal of contaminated gasoline. [passage omitted]

Most of the cabinet discussion focused on the Madrid talks. The cabinet heard a long report by Foreign Minister Buwayz in which he explained the reasons for the lack of information from the Lebanese delegation during the conference. He mentioned the issue of the Israeli withdrawal from Jazzin. He said the Lebanese delegation proposed this to the U.S. delegation, which responded by asking Lebanon to begin direct negotiations with Israel on the issue. Lebanon rejected this request. The United States also asked Lebanon to control the security situation in the south. The Lebanese delegation answered that the issue of resistance will not be raised as long as the land is occupied. Lebanon suggested that Israel make a public and frank pledge to withdraw by a specific date for Lebanon to consider the issue of the resistance. Minister Buwayz concluded by saying that the peace conference will achieve its objectives within one year, and that its first fruits will be the implementation of Resolution 425 within four months.

Ministers George Sa'adah, 'Abdallah al-Amin, Zahir al-Khatib, Albert Mansur, Butrus Mansur, and 'Ali al-Khalil took part in the debate on the foreign minister's report. The discussion was characterized by criticism of the Lebanese delegation's position on the issue of Jazzin. [passage omitted]

Karami Meets With U.S. Ambassador, Comments

NC1311184891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Karami today received U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker, who said that his government is looking forward to the second round of direct bilateral talks between the parties participating in the peace conference. [passage omitted]

On leaving the Government House, Prime Minister Karami said: Our position is well known and has not changed: We are concerned with implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. This issue is independent of any other discussion, because in discussing any other topic, we would enter into details which we do not need. We are not prepared to discuss any issue outside of the implementation of Resolution 425. We have declared this position and we still adhere to it. Therefore, any stories that certain issues were discussed at the bilateral and general meetings are untrue. Our delegation to the conference complied completely with the instructions and did not budge from them.

Iranian Official on Lebanese-Israeli Talks

LD1311183591 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 13, IRNA—There is no need for the Lebanese Government to negotiate with the Zionist regime because the U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 calls for the "unconditional withdrawal" of Israel from south Lebanon, Iran's special envoy said here today. Foreign Ministry advisor, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazim Khonsari, added that any talks between the Lebanese Government and the al-Quds occupying regime would be useless.

On the issue of hostages, he said "we wish all hostages including those held in Israeli prisons would be freed soon." Iran, the prime victim of hostage-taking in Iran, is yet to learn of the fate of its four diplomats kidnapped by pro-Western Christian Phalangists in Beirut in 1982. [sentence as received]

Khonsari who is here with a consignment of relief package for the Zionist-harassed people of south Lebanon, was speaking to reporters at the Iranian Embassy. He said the U.N. secretary-general was seriously following the issue and that Iran was ready to offer any kind of assistance to him in this regard. Some 380 tons of foodstuff and medicines rushed by the Islamic Republic over the past few days have been distributed among 5,000 families in south Lebanon, who suffered in the recent Israeli bombardment, he said.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khonsari also lauded the Muslim people of south Lebanon and the al-Biqa' Valley for their resistance and steadfastness against the Zionist enemy.

Hizballah Warns Government of U.S. 'Trap'

NC1311183991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] A responsible source in Hizballah has announced that the Americans tried through the Madrid peace conference to set the atmosphere of pressure for concessions in favor of Israel. They even enticed the Lebanese Government with empty promises on a partial Israeli withdrawal from the south before the conference.

The Hizballah source affirmed that the United States is trying once again to put pressures on the resistance and ignite problems between it and the Lebanese authorities to please Israel and facilitate the latter's continued aggression without any deterrent or resistance.

The source warned the government not to fall into the trap set for it. It called on the government to do its duty in defending the land and remaining steadfast.

Israeli Shelling in South, Air Sorties Detailed

NC1411122791 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces renewed their shelling today of a number of areas in Western al-Biqa' and Iqlim al-Tuffah while Israeli warplanes resumed their sorties over the south up to Beirut, which they flew over at 1240 today.

Radio Israel said that the pro-occupation militia shelled targets in Iqlim al-Tuffah last night. It cited UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNFIL] sources in the south as saying that around 40 shells fell on that areas while Shaqra also came under artillery shelling. More details from our correspondent in the eastern zone:

[Begin recording] The Israeli occupation forces shelled 'Ayn al-Tinah village in Western al-Biqa' at midnight with 125 mm artillery from their positions in Abu-Qamhah and Ibil al-Saqy. A number of houses were hit. The shelling extended to Birkat Jabbur and Abu-Rashid and continued intermittently until the morning. Two Israeli helicopters simultaneously raked Taw'amat Niha and the Maydun forest with heavy machine-gun fire. An Israel MK drone flew over the contact lines to reconnoiter the adjacent areas. The Israeli shelling also extended to the villages of 'Arab Salim, 'Aramta, and Jarju' in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

In the eastern zone, an armed clash took place yesterday afternoon between an Israeli patrol of a personnel carrier and a military jeep and a UNIFIL roadblock at the western entrance to Kafr Shuba in al-'Urqub when the Israeli patrol tried to cross the roadblock and enter the village. The UNIFIL elements confronted it, blocked the road with an armored military vehicle, took up combat positions, and fired several warning shots. The Israeli force opened intensive fire with machine guns. The clash lasted seven minutes. As a result of contacts made between the two parties, the patrol withdrew to its point of departure in the Kafr Shuba hills.

The Israeli occupation forces are constantly deploying patrols in al-'Urqub villages, setting up mobile roadblocks, and checking the identities of passengers and vehicles. Other patrols from the agents' intelligence organs infiltrate into the al-'Urqub villages at night, tour the streets, and open fire to terrorize people. Yesterday the agent militias banned a number of pick-up trucks from using the Zummarayya crossing point to the liberated ares on the pretext that their movement between the two areas is not desirable. [end recording]

Knesset Ruling Proves Israel 'Enemy of Peace'

JN1311155891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] An official source has stated the following: Israel has not remained content with exposing its intransigence before the Madrid peace conference. Since the inauguration of the conference, it has taken steps and measures to sabotage the Arab and international efforts made to achieve a just and comprehensive peace to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

This hostile Israeli conduct has been epitomized by the daily shelling of southern Lebanon, the establishment of a new settlement in the occupied Golan, and also by the Israeli Knesset decision to view the occupied Syrian Golan as nonnegotiable Israeli territory. All this has happened since the inauguration of the Madrid peace conference. By so doing, Israel offered the entire world tangible proof that it is an enemy of peace, that it lends deaf ears to world public opinion, and that it fails to heed international law and the principles of international legitimacy.

The Israeli Knesset decision is a flagrant violation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and represents open defiance of the principles and objectives of the peace conference held in Madrid under U.S.-Soviet cosponsorship with the participation of the EC and the United Nations. Furthermore, the Knesset decision is diametrically opposed to UN Security Council Resolution 497, which views the Israeli decision to annex the Golan in 1981 as illegal, null and void.

While reiterating its determination to regain all Syrian territory in the occupied Golan and terminate the Israeli occupation of the remaining Arab territories, Syria urges the fraternal Arab states and all states that are interested in peace in this region to be aware of the dangers inherent in the Israeli practices, which are aimed at torpedoing the peace process. Likewise, Syria calls for condemning, denouncing, and thwarting these Israeli practices through a concerted effort by the Arabs and the international community to help render the peace process a success.

Fatah-Syrian Ties 'Back to Normal'

NC1311140491 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, Nov 13 (AFP)—Syria and Fatah, the Palestinian movement headed by Yasir 'Arafat, have patched up their differences after an eight-year feud, a senior Fatah leader announced here Wednesday, hinting that the group could soon reopen offices in Damascus.

"Coordination is going well on all issues and in all areas of common political action," 'Abbas Zaki, a member of Fatah's Central Committee, told AFP.

He said an accord had been reached "on all aspects of a solution" and that relations between Fatah, the leading component of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Syria "were back to normal."

Asked about the possibility of Fatah reopening its offices here, which were closed in a dispute over Palestinian leadership that erupted in 1983, Zaki said: "Everything is possible between us and there is no problem with this question," which he described as an "administrative issue."

A Fatah delegation has been here since Friday and has held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

The delegation has also met representatives from most of the Palestinian groups based here, namely: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine of George Habash, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine of Nayif Hawatimah, the Palestine Liberation Front, the pro-Syrian al-Sai'qah group and the Palestine National Salvation Front, a coalition of smaller units hostile to 'Arafat.

The Fatah team, led by PLO political chief Faruq Qaddumi, is due to leave Damascus Thursday.

People's Assembly Endorses 1991 Budget Bill

JN1311182791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, 13 Nov (SANA)—In a session held this evening under Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, the People's Assembly endorsed the state budget bill for 1991. Several cabinet ministers attended the session. Budget allocations for 1991 totaled 84,690,507,000 Syrian pounds, distributed among the various sections, branches, and chapters as spelled out in the expenditure table attached to the budget bill.

Each and every article contained in the budget bill was read out. The budget bill was endorsed after some of its articles were debated, and also after clarifications were provided by Finance Minister Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayni.

The session was then adjourned until 1000 tomorrow.

Afghanistan

Diplomat Comments on Moscow Talks, Kabul Proposals

NC1311224891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—Counselor Ajmal Kheybari, head of the Afghan diplomatic mission in Egypt, has stated that his government believes that Egypt can play a vital role in attaining peace in Afghanistan in its capacity as a major Islamic country.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, he emphasized the importance of Egypt's political participation in the dialogue between the concerned parties in Afghanistan, because it is respected by all the parties that want the peace process there to succeed. [passage omitted]

As for the negotiations that started in Moscow today between representatives of the Afghan Government and the mojahedin, Kheybari said that the United Nations are negotiating with the concerned parties to sit down at a roundtable conference to be held at the end of this month or in early December in [word indistinct] or in an Islamic capital. [passage omitted]

Kheybari said: Saudi Arabia has welcomed the current UN efforts to achieve peace, and this is important for us because it has weight as an Islamic country and it could play an important and positive role in this respect. In Pakistan, the civilian government supports the UN initiative, but the military continues to support the mojahedin fully. He added that the mojahedin are split into two groups. The first comprises the extremists, who are a minority and who believe that a military victory is the only way to a solution. The second are the moderates, who are the majority and who understand the international political developments and the importance of achieving a peaceful solution. Hence there is a struggle going on among the mojahedin themselves.

As for the Afghan Government's position on the mojahedin's demands, he said that the government is ready to discuss any proposals on forming a consultative council [majlis shura], the disengagement of forces, the formation of a coalition government, or any other proposals made at the negotiations between the Afghans themselves. He added that his government has made a new proposal that allows the mojahedin now in Pakistan to open offices inside Afghanistan as a confidence-building measure between all the parties. The government also proposed to stop firing Scud missiles against the mojahedin if they stop rocketing the cities, he said.

Armed 'Hecklers' Break Up Demonstration

BK1311124891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 13 (AFP)—Dozens of slogan-shouting hecklers, many carrying weapons, forced outnumbered anti-government protestors to flee an anti-regime rally here Wednesday and abandon a planned march near the presidential palace.

The rally organisers, many of them supporters of former Afghan king Zaher Shah, folded their anti-government posters and banners and fled when they were ringed by dozens of people shouting counter-slogans against the former king.

Army soldiers with machine guns guarding the rally ground laughed and refused to intervene as the some 200 counter-demonstrators ringed and jostled about 150 protesters calling them "royal stooges."

The rally, the first anti-regime demonstration known to have been permitted here since President Najibollah came to power in 1986, broke up within an hour after it started at 10:00 a.m. local time, witnesses said.

Its chief organiser Zia Khan Nasery escaped in a jeep.

The protestors abandoned earlier plans to march to Pashtunistan Square near the President Palace and on to the Soviet Embassy, as the hecklers, many of them carrying side arms, closed in on them.

Later Nasery could not be found in any of the offices used by the newly formed pro-royalist Center for Afghan Democracy, and his hotel said he was missing from his room.

"Down with the regime ... dissolve the Khad (Afghan secret police)" were some of the large banners that Nasery had erected in a central Kabul park before the virtual storming of the ground by the hecklers who screamed that the king was not wanted back in Afghanistan.

One of the hecklers thrust a paper at an AFP reporter and said the Etehad-e Eslami group of the resistance was against the king, who was deposed in 1973.

"We want Najibollah to surrender and the king to remain away from here," said the statement, referring to the king's exile in Italy.

"We are under a military seige," shouted Nasery, before giving ground to the dozens of surrounding hecklers, and charged that it was the secret police which had sabotaged the rally.

The hecklers shoved journalists and formed a ring around them, preventing most of the correspondents from reaching the royalists, who were in turn encircled.

"What has the king given us except hunger and misery during his 40 years of misrule," shouted one burly young man who was armed, as another yelled that Afghan rebels would cut the king's head off if he showed his face in Afghanistan.

The United Nations, Washington and Moscow have suggested the king's name as a viable head of a neutral transitional government until elections can be held in Afghanistan.

Their stand has emboldened priorly silent royalists here who 10 days ago began agitating openly for his return.

"We don't know who these people are and why they are here, it looks like a typical Khad (secret police) operation," said Sarwar Akbari, a former senator under the king and a member of the democracy center.

"These people (the rallyists) are the king's stooges. We don't want Zaher Shah and people will not forget his past activities," shouted one heckler whose shouts helped drown anti-Najibollah slogans such as "Down with dictatorship .. down with Najib."

The Internal Security Ministry had given permission to Nasery, a Harvard trained U.S. citizen, to hold the rally in line with the government's recent reformist policies.

However unconfirmed reports from official sources said the Najibollah government had withdrawn permission for the rally to be held early Wednesday morning.

The officials also said that office workers who had planned to attend the rally had been told that it would not be held.

"It seems the government got cold feet at the last moment," said one Asian diplomat commenting on the sequence of events.

Some diplomats present at the rally even suggested that even the royalist protest had been stage-managed by the government to check people's reactions to the Khad, once headed by Najibollah, and the Soviet-backed regime which came into power 13 years ago.

Since 1979 the Soviet military has propped up the regime.

"We are honest people trying to restore peace and pave the way for free elections here, we are neither the king's stooges nor someone else's pawn," said a shaken center member, Rabbani Rasuli, a former intellectual advisor to the king.

Nasery returned here recently from the United States to campaign for the ouster of what he called "KGB slaves in Kabul."

After the debacle in the square a government spokesman disclaimed any responsibility for what had happened saying "Whatever happened during the rally was not the government's fault. It was between the civilians... we did not interfere."

He said the security men had been there only to prevent any clashes and stop any outbreak of violence.

Royalist Supporter To Leave Country

BK1311150491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1449 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 13 (AFP)—An Afghan royalist supporter, Zia Khan Nasery, said Wednesday that he was leaving Kabul because any political activity against the Soviet-backed government here was impossible at present.

Nassery, a Harvard-educated U.S. citizen, told AFP that he was taking the first flight out of Kabul Thursday and would not return to Afghanistan, which he left 20 years ago.

His statement came several hours after unknown hecklers broke up a rally of royalists in the city to protest the regime of President Najibollah.

"No, I am not being thrown out, but they are giving me an escort vehicle to leave Kabul," said Nassery.

He alleged the anti-regime rally, the first officially permitted by the Kabul regime, was sabotaged by secret servicemen and government agents.

Nassery is campaigning for the return of ex-king Mohammad Zaher Shah to lead Afghanistan out of 13 years of war between the Soviet-installed Kabul regime and mojahedin rebels fighting to topple it.

Armed Forces Repulse Attack on Jalalabad

LD1211185591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Armed forces units in Nangarhar Province have repulsed attacks by extremist groups and the Pakistani military and inflicted a heavy loss of life on the attackers.

According to a report by the BAKHTAR military section, the extremists, Pakistani soldiers, and Arab mercenaries, who suffered a shameful defeat in Nangarhar Province in March 1989, and as a result of their attacks and acts of aggression lost hundreds of their people, tried once again to launch an attack against the city of Jalalabad and to implement their sinister plan with the long-range weapons that have been given to them. The aggressors timed their offensive against Nangarhar Province to coincide with their attacks on the city of Gardeyz, and they thought they might succeed in Gardeyz or the outskirts of Jalalabad.

Once again the calculations of the extremists and the Pakistani military proved to be wrong. In the face of the provocative activities of the extremist groups, the Pakistani military, and Arab mercenaries, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan defended those cities effectively and strongly. The aggressors suffered a heavy loss of life and were forced to retreat. A large number of extremists, including 22 ringleaders—Mashal, Habibollah, Nur Rahman, Haji Sediq, Mojahed Ahmad, Mir Pasha, Salah Khan, Abdol Khetab, 'Abdollah, Chapaw, Khalil, Shahghazi, Shams, 'Abdol Rahman, Nader, Zabihollah, Akbar, Ghafur, Shaker, Qazi Huseyn, Nurdad, and Sadroddin—were wiped out, and a large number of others were injured. Seven Pakistani military personnel and 43 Arab mercenaries are among those who were wiped out.

In the attacks a large quantity of arms and ammunition was destroyed, including nine armored vehicles, 30 sets of [words indistinct] mortars, 10 artillery pieces, 10 heavy machine guns, 33 vehicles carrying arms and ammunition, 13 arms and ammunition depots, and hundreds of light weapons. After repulsing the attacks by the Pakistani military and extremists, armed forces units based in Nangarhar inflicted crushing blows on their positions, and as a result their combat capability was greatly weakened.

Military commentators believe that the extremists, the Pakistan military, and Arab mercenaries are likely to organize another attack against the city of Jalalabad, and the authorities in Jalalabad have been further strengthened.

Rebels Launch Attacks Against Hekmatyar Forces

LD0911205791 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Groups associated with the Salafis launched attacks on 8 November against the positions of Golbuddin's [Hekmatyar] groups with heavy weapons and rockets in Sawki, Khas Konar, and Nur Gol Districts. The BIA military section reports that as a result of the attacks, 54 people including a ringleader associated with Golbuddin's groups were killed and 52 others were injured. During yesterday's attacks a base of Golbuddin's group with a large quantity of arms and ammunition was captured by Salafis. According to the BIA military section reports, 400 people associated with Golbuddin's groups have been sent to Konar Province from Nangarhar and Laghman Provinces to protect his bases and positions and to counter the Salafis. Heavy clashes still continue between the rival groups.

'Extremist' Infighting in Konarha

LD1111175991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] All centers and positions of the fundamentalist group of Golbuddin in some parts of Khas Konarha, Konarha Province were captured yesterday by Salafi groups.

The BIA military section reports that the Salafi groups have launched an extensive offensive toward Nur Gal to capture the centers and positions of Golbuddin. And those armed groups of Golbuddin who had gone to Konarha from parts of Laghman and Nangarhar Provinces have been unsuccessful in resisting the attacks by Salafis.

Groups attached to the Golbuddin extremist group, after being defeated repeatedly by Salafis and suffering heavy losses in life and material, have asked Golbuddin himself to send them help.

In order to prevent the fall of his bases in Konarha Province, Golbuddin has instructed a number of his groups stationed in Deh Bala District and the Ghaziabad farm, Nangarhar Province, to move toward Konarha Province.

Up to now the two rival groups have lost hundreds of their men in Konarha Province. A number of those families who were living close to the areas of the fighting have left their homes and escaped to the mountains.

Clashes Continue 12 Nov

LD1311224691 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Yesterday groups associated with Salafis and Golbuddin again attacked each other's positions with heavy weapons and rockets in Khas Konar, Sawki, and Nur Gol, in Konarha Province. The BAKHTAR military section reports: During the clashes 10 people associated with the belligerent groups were killed and three others were injured. One headquarters, three vehicles, several heavy and light weapons, and a large of quantity of ammunition of Golbuddin's group were captured by the rival group. [Words indistinct] vehicles carrying the Salafis' ammunition have been captured by members of Golbuddin's group in Khas Konar District. Reports received by the BAKHTAR military section say that a number of Arab mercenaries and Pakistani militia members have recently entered Konarha in support of the Salafis. Heavy clashes between the two rival groups are continuing.

Meanwhile, positions and bases of the extremist group of [Yunes] Khales in Khowgiani District in Nangarhar Province were attacked yesterday by groups associated with Golbuddin. The BAKHTAR military section reports: As a result of the attack, six members of the extremist group of Khales were either killed or injured and several weapons, two positions, and a large amount of ammunition were destroyed.

Commentary on Pakistani Intelligence Involvement

LD1011093891 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0508 GMT 10 Nov 91

[BAKHTAR political observer's commentary]

[Text] Kabul Nov. 9 BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes: Radio BBC reports that a small group of Pakistani Interservice Intelligence (ISI) men during the attack of mojahedin on Jalalabad have been killed by mojahedin and for that reason their attack on Jalalabad has been stopped.

This is the very fact that the official circles of Afghanistan had informed the people of the world about the direct interventions of ISI into the internal affairs of Afghanistan particularly the BAKHTAR announcement released on Oct. 16, 1991, has clearly disclosed that under the conditions when the fivepoint peace plan of the UN secretary general and the Soviet-American joint statement were released for the political settlement of the Afghanistan issue, the Pakistani militarymen and the

Afghan extremists have taken earnest preparation for carrying extensive attacks on Nangarhar in order to boost the broken morale of the extremists, the military forces of Pakistan and Arab mercenaries also take part in this offensive.

It is said in the BAKHTAR statement that the extremists offensive on Nangarhar was due to start on Oct. 6, 1991. However, this was delayed owing to the differences existed among domestic commanders with Pakistani militarymen and Arab mercenaries about the command of the war and the determination of its first and second fronts on the one hand by the armed forces on the preparation days of the attack, on the others as a result the commanders had refrained from attacking on Jalalabad city and their offensive plan on this city was postponed. [sentence as received]

Now, it sems that the radios of the world have disclosed these facts through their reporters and confirm the interventions of Pakistani militarymen in the wars of Afghanistan.

This is not for the first time that the Pakistani interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan have been brought about to the attention of the world public, but previously too, Hamid 'Elmi a journalist working for the mojahedin in Peshawar had reported on the differences of the mojahid local field commanders with the Pakistani militaries and Arab mercenaries.

Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, head of the Peshawar based interim government of mojahedin has disclosed that he was fed-up with the Pakistani [Pak] ISI interferences in the internal affairs of Afghans.

He described that the interventions of the Pakistani militaristic espionage circles in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is an insult to the Afghans.

Mojaddedi added that Pakistan is impeding the peace process in Afghanistan.

Peter Thomson, USA envoy to the Afghan oppositon in Pakistan, in his recent interview with a correspondent of the radio Voice of America, while reaffirming the assertions of Mojaddedi, pertaining to the Pak ISI interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, regretted that the Pakistani interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan was also reflected in the UN secretary general's recent report submitted to the UN Security Council in the field.

These facts and figures show that the world populace accept that the main cause of the continuation of war in Afghanistan is the Pakistani militarists who contrary to the provisions of the Geneva accords and the wish of the world community reflected in the five-point scheme of the UN secretary general and Soviet-U.S. joint statement intensify their interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan which gain broader dimension by the elapse of every day.

Pakistan always plays a dual-face policy vis-a-vis Afghanistan it apparantly speaks on political solution of the Afghan problem, but in practice continues its direct provocations and interferences in the internal affairs of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan].

It is necessary to the international community and the Afghans residing in any part of the globe to judge that if Pakistani interferences did not exist, the Afghan issue would have been solved long ago.

It is now become evident to the Afghans that they would not be deceived by the plots and intrigues of their enemies.

Realising these facts the Afghans will defend their national interest, independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity against such plots. And [word indistinct] peace soon.

Israeli Military Advisers Said Aiding Golbuddin

LD1211062991 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 11, (BAKHTAR)—A BAKHTAR political observer writes:

These days when the Afghans have become more hopeful about the political solution of their problem than any time in the past, interesting facts have been revealed about the activities of those extremist ringleaders who are opposed to the UN fivepoint scheme, the U.S.-Soviet joint statement and visit of a mojahid delegation to Moscow lately.

The facts unveiled by the Pakistani mass media and world radios show that the Golbuddin [Hekmatyar], [Yunes] Khales and ['Abdul Ra'sul] Sayyaf groupings in addition to having close links with the Pakistani Interservice Intelligence (ISI) are cooperating with the Israeli intelligence service too.

The radio BBC and the Pakistani FRIDAY TIMES have disclosed that the Israeli military advisers were training supporters of the extremist fundamentalists especially those of the Golbuddin formation in the use and handling of sophisticated arms and ammunition. This fact was approved by an Israeli who was at the service of Israeli intelligence for a period of over a decade and had himself supervised dispatch and distribution or armaments worth $100 millions to the fundamentalists.

Revealing of such facts do not create amazement to any body at all. For, the fundamentliast extremists are ready to bargin with any party to reach their shameful designs against the Afghan people. It is amazing that how these groups have put the mask of Islam and Islamism and cooperate with Zionists for the murder of the innocent Afghans and destruction of Afghanistan.

BBC and the FRIDAY NEWS add that in the Zia's era military cooperation between the fundamentalists and Israel existed as well.

The extremists who always create trouble against the solution of the Afghan issue are the true enemies of the Afghans. Because, they for the murder of the Afghans and ruination of our country have been inspired by the Israelis even. Golbuddin and his followers have been completely recognised by the Afghans. Golbuddin's interaction with Israel has exposed his true face to us. The extremists will not attain their sinister designs at all. Afghans will entertain peace and security in their common home soon.

Council of Ministers Holds Plenary Session 12 Nov

LD1211065291 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0501 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 11 (BAKHTAR)—The plenary session of the Council of Ministers was held here today, presided over by Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, reports press office of the prime ministry.

The draft of the socio-economic development plan of the Republic of Afghanistan for the year 1991, the partial replacement of tools and implements of the radio-television, the accession of the Republic of Afghanistan to the international convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of hired soldiers, mercenaries, improvment in the activity of the despatcheries of Kabul-Hayratan highways and some legislative documents were discussed and decisions were made on them.

At the beginning, Fazl Haq Khaleqyar informed the members of the government about the political and economic situation of the country and talked about the current developments of the country and the region.

Khaleqyar, while recalling acceleration in the political solution of the Afghan issue, considered current developments occurred in the international arena on creating favourable possibilities for intra-Afghan understanding as well as materialisation of peace process in the country.

Khaleqyar put light on the return of large numbers of refugees from the alien lands back home too.

Pointing out to the endeavours of the Ministry of Commerce and its cooperation with the private sector of the Afghan economy in respect of the distribution of petroleum to people, he hoped that more pump stations become active by private sector to further ease this process.

G. Muhayuddin Shahbaz, minister of planning presented socioeconomic development plan of the government for the year 1371 (begins March 21, 1992). On the basis of this report the Council of Ministers issued instructions to the ministries for the fulfilment of this plan.

The session heard a report of 'Abdul Bashir Roygar, minister of culture and information, on partially replacing the tools and equipments of the radio-TV of Afghanistan and studying the possibilities for resuming cooperation with foreign radio-TV companies, and benefitting the fiscal allocation of the current Afghan year, for equipping Afghan radio-TV. It issued a resolution in the field.

Meanwhile, the session heard the report of 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister, pertaining to the joining of the Republic of Afghanistan to the international convention struggling against, employing, using, financing and training of hired soldiers. The session all-sidedly discussed and approved it.

The ministers decided that the matter be presented to the National Assembly of Afghanistan for further action.

In the same vein, the Council of Ministers discussed the issues in connection with the improvement of the despatchery activities along Kabul-Hayratan highway and acceleration of goods transportation along this route as well.

In this connection a decision was passed for the improvement of the despatcheries and dutified the Ministries of Armed Forces and other concerned organs for meeting the requirements of personnel, through the view point of necesary equipments, finance and other of these necessities.

Ghulam Mahuddin Dariz, minister of justice, proposed the establishemnt of the vocational, technical and training institutions by the private sector, the draft rule, classification of the state enterprises and the amendment of Article 4 of the platform of the Construction and Mortagage Bank.

The session as per the significance of the draft of the private sector's educational, technical and vocational institution law instructed that, the draft is to be thoroughly assessed under the supervision of deputy-premier in social and cultural affairs and ministries of finance, planning, higher and vocational education, etc and the final text is to be reported to the next session.

The session also recommended that, after assessment and removal of the existing deficiencies in categorisation of the state enterprises rule to be presented to next session [as received].

The session approved omission of the 4th article of the platform of the Mortgage and Construction Bank.

Najibollah Receives Message From Kyrgyzian Leader

LD0811220191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] A message of thanks has arrived in Kabul addressed to Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, from His Excellency Askar Akayev, president of Kyrgyzstan, of the Soviet Union, in reply to a congratulatory message sent on Akayev's appointment to that post.

Having expressed appreciation, thanks, and best wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the people of Afghanistan, it added that the Republic of Kyrgyzstan will employ all its efforts in the future to ensuring peace and stability in the region.

Balkh Province, Uzbek Obkom Sign Social Services Protocol

LD1111173491 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] A bilateral cooperation protocol was signed yesterday in Mazar-e Sharif between Balkh Province and Surkhandarya Obkom, the Republic of Uzbekistan, governing various spheres of social services.

The protocol was signed for Afghanistan by Engineer Mohammad Aziz, governor of Balkh Province, and for Surkhandarya by [name indistinct], head of the Surkhandarya Provincial People's Council.

The protocol states that both sides will cooperate in the further expansion of trade and economic ties and on a series of social and public services.

Bangladesh

Zia Returns From 'Successful' Visit to Colombo

BK0811160491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, back home from a two-day state visit to Sri Lanka, has described her visit as very successful. She was talking to newsmen at the airport on return home from Colombo this evening. Begum Zia said although the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit was postponed following Bhutan's decision not to attend the conference, she went to Sri Lanka on a state visit at the invitation of President Premadasa. She had fruitful bilateral talks with President Premadasa, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. They agreed to make SAARC more constructive in future and they were hopeful that the regional organization will play a positive role in improving the condition of the people of the region. She said she does not think the postponement will weaken the SAARC.

In reply to a question, Begum Khaleda Zia said the SAARC summit will be held in Colombo this year. The outgoing chairman, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, is having consultations with all SAARC nations to fix a new date for the summit.

In reply to another question, Begum Zia said all are equal members in SAARC and there is no question who is big or small in the organization.

Begum Zia said the question of the return of stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh also came up during the talks with Mr. Nawaz Sharif. She expressed the hope that the issue will be settled soon.

Ershad Ministers Arrested, Charged With Graft

BK1111044591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0418 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 11 (AFP)—Three ministers in the cabinet of deposed Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad have been arrested and charged with graft and misuse of power, police sources said here Monday.

Shah Moazzem Hossain, former deputy prime minister and secretary general of the Jatiya Party (JP), was refused bail by the metropolitan magistrate and was sent to the high-security Dhaka Central Jail for the second time since the fall of Ershad's eight-year regime.

He was earlier arrested on similar charges, but was freed two months ago on bail.

Nurrunnabi Chand, a former state minister, was also refused bail and sent to jail, police said.

Newspapers reported Monday that a third minister in the JP government, Mahbubur Rahman, who was once a close associate of Ershad and remained in hiding, was arrested Wednesday at his Dhaka residence and was detained for 120 days under the tough Special Powers Act.

He was later sent to northern Mymensingh District jail.

Meanwhile, the acting JP chairman, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, in a statement Monday termed Shah Moazzem's arrest as "sad and inhuman" and said arrest of political opponents was proof of the government's weakness.

He also demanded the release of all JP members and the dropping of charges against them.

Ershad, now in Dhaka Central Jail, came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup and was deposed last December in a mass uprising.

He has been sentenced to 10 years at hard labour for possessing illegal weapons and faces several charges of graft and smuggling.

At Least 66 Injured in Rival Student Clashes

BK1111073291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 11 (AFP)—At least 66 people were injured in clashes between student activists of Bangladesh's top two political groups in a northwestern district, press reports said here Monday.

Members of the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) and the Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL) fired guns, set off bombs and used knives and sticks in Pabna town during the clashes Sunday, before they were forced to disperse by baton charging police, the reports said.

The clash erupted after a BCL procession was attacked allegedly by JCD supporters, injuring students and police, reports said.

The JCD and BCL are respectively the student wings of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the opposition Awami League party of Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

The two groups have been involved in similar clashes since March, including a bloody gun battle last month on the Dhaka University campus, forcing the closure of more than 100 schools.

The university incident left three students and a homeless boy dead.

Wajed indefinitely suspended BCL activities on that campus soon after the incident and said the ban would remain in force as long as the situation demanded.

Similar clashes were also reported over the past several days in other districts.

India Permits Nationals To Visit Enclave

BK1111160591 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] The Indian Government has extended the permit for the passage of Bangladeshis to the Dahogram-Angorpota enclave after the 22d of January next year. An official source said in Dhaka today with the extension of permit, Bangladeshis will now be able to visit the enclave freely. Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu is reported to have left Calcutta today on way to Tin Bigha. He is likely to reach there tomorrow to finalize the process of the transfer of the corridor to Bangladesh.

Iranian President's Envoy Meets With Zia, Biswas

BK0911162091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said Bangladesh will continue its policy of forging unity among Muslim ummah [community] for the all-round socioeconomic progress of Islamic countries. The policy was enunciated by Shahid [martyr] President Ziaur Rahman. She was talking to the visiting deputy foreign minister for international affairs of Iran and the special envoy of Iranian president, Manuchehr Motaki, who called on her in Dhaka today. During the meeting, the special envoy lauded Bangladesh's initiative as a Third World and Islamic country for the social and economic progress of the Islamic ummah. Mr. Motaki handed over a message to the prime minister relating to the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] summit to be held in Senegal next month. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman was present on the occasion.

The Iranian envoy earlier called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Banga Bhavan [president house] this morning. He said Iran would recruit more technical and qualified manpower from Bangladesh aimed at increasing cooperation between the two countries. The Iranian envoy said his country has very close and cordial relationship with Bangladesh and hoped there are ample scopes for both the countries to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Reciprocating the sentiments, President Biswas said the present democratic government is relentlessly striving for all-round socioeconomic development of the country.

Iranian Envoy Delivers Velayati Message to Rahman

LD1211124691 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Dhaka, Nov. 12, IRNA—A message of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was handed over to his Bangladeshi counterpart Mustafizur Rahman here Tuesday. Velayati in his message, submitted by Iran's ambassador to Dhaka Mohammad Ganji-Dust, reiterated Tehran-Dhaka cooperation with the aim to materialize the strategic goals of the Islamic countries in the light of the developments related to the new world order. Supporting Velayati's viewpoints, Rahman reiterated humanistic values in Islam and emphasized implementation of these values in Islamic countries.

Government Initiates Dialogue To End Insurgency

BK1111074191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 11 (AFP)—The Bangladesh Government has almost finalised a plan to end 17 years of insurgency in the southeastern hills by initiating a political dialogue with the rebels, a newspaper here reported Monday.

The mass-circulation Bengali-language daily ITTEFAQ said a five-member liaison committee of government officials and members of the Parbatta Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJS) has started working.

PCJS is the political wing of the Shanti Bahini rebels, dominated by the Chakama tribe, who have been fighting for local autonomy and expulsion of Bengali-speaking Muslim settlers from the three Chittagong hill districts.

ITTEFAQ did not identify its source and officials here were not immediately available for comment Monday.

The report comes about one month after the authorities declared an indefinite amnesty, the fifth in as many years, for the rebels with offers of cash and other prizes in a bid to lure them over.

Official sources said that since the amnesty was announced, only a handful of rebels have surrendered and some 200 tribesmen have returned from refugee camps in neighbouring India, which besides Burma borders the hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban.

The tribesmen constitute about 60 percent of the area's population of 790,400. The rest are Muslim settlers.

The government delegation to the talks would include members of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party and opposition Awami League party, besides officials of the ministries of home, foreign and special affairs, the report said.

The rebel side would include tribal leaders of PCJS from the three districts.

The last government delegation to similar talks in 1985 under the rule of since ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad excluded politicians.

ITTEFAQ said the plan was faced with "some obstacles" because the Shanti Bahini were suspicious of the government's initiative as their high command was busy checking members from deserting following the amnesty offer.

As a result of this suspicion the rebels had launched several attacks during the past weeks, killing or injuring settlers, tribesmen and security personnel, it added.

India

State May Sell Nuclear Research Reactor to Iran

BK0911123891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 9 (AFP)—India may sell a small nuclear research reactor to Iran but negotiations have not yet been finalised, the Bombay-based INDEPENDENT newspaper said Saturday.

Indian Foreign Office officials were not immediately available to verify or comment on the report which came on the eve of a scheduled visit to Tehran by Indian Foreign Minister Madhav Singh Solanki.

The INDEPENDENT, which cited "information available" in India, said that should the sale of the five megawatt [MW] reactor go ahead, it was likely to be under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The safeguards would preclude Iran from secretly storing plutonium for any nuclear weapons program, the INDEPENDENT said, adding that the reactor which India had agreed to sell could produce plutonium.

The newspaper said the Iranian Government had wanted to buy a larger 10 megawatt reserach reactor, but that the Indian Government was "keen on" the smaller five MW one, which would cost some 50 million U.S. dollars.

Negotiations for the sale were conducted when a team of the Iranian Atomic Energy Agency officials visited India in February of this year, and the issue was further discussed when Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister Alla'eddin Borujerdi visited Delhi at the beginning of October, the paper said.

"The export agreement will be within the framework of a bilateral nuclear agreement currently being discussed by the two countries," the INDEPENDENT said.

Minister Solanki was scheduled to leave Delhi Sunday for a three day visit to Iran to attend the fifth session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission which deals with bilateral ties.

BJP Official Wants Indian Nuclear Capability

BK1011161791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] vice president, Mr. Krishna Lal Sharma, says India should acquire nuclear capability in view of Pakistan's design to make nuclear bombs. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, Mr. Sharma referred to reports that Pakistan has smuggled enough triton capable of producing 10 nuclear bombs and said India cannot afford to overlook this serious development. The BJP leader also called for chalking out a comprehensive plan to combat Pakistani propaganda against India at international level. He said it is imperative to tell Pakistan that India would not tolerate any further its aiding and abetting the terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir.

Pakistani Nuclear-Free Bid Said 'Not Serious'

BK1411035691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] India has described Pakistan's motion on making South Asia a nuclear-weapon-free zone as ritualistic and not being serious. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi yesterday that the motion voted in the UN General Assembly's Political and Security Committee on Monday does not meet the criterion of prior consultations among the nations of the region. Asked about the Soviet vote in favor of the motion, he said the perception of the Soviet Union has in the recent past changed on a variety of issues.

Paper Terms Pakistan's Policy as 'Confused'

BK1111093291 Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Oct 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Confused Pakistan Policy"]

[Text] Meeting within a week of the last lunge the Pakistan military made across the Line of Actual Control in the Kargil sector, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan have hopeless briefs to mull over in Islamabad. Jammu and Kashmir Governor Girish Saxena has said that the Pakistanis are engaged in a low-cost proxy war in the Kashmir Valley. Defence Minister Sharad Pawar has, more than once, warned of the danger of an aggressive action by Pakistan. Those who saw on TV how Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif responded to newsmen's questions after the two met in Harare (during the Commonwealth meeting) would recall that Mr Rao was more optimistic, even effusive, about the upshot of that get-together than Mr Sharif. The impression they left is mirrored in the conduct of the policies India and Pakistan pursue on the ground. India's policy and opinion makers are torn by the conflicting interests of lobbies functioning in India. Pakistan contrastingly is animated by vengeful, monomaniac aims. Pakistan's democratic institutions are in an inchoate stage and Pakistani society is dominated by a very large landlord-military officer caste. Rational discussion of the possibilities open before the two neighbouring countries is not yet possible there. Questioning the basis of Paksitan's India policy cannot be the subject of a domestic debate in that country, though Pakistan now has an elected legislature. Indian naivety is often displayed in the Indians' incapacity to distinguish between the anti-India public aim Pakistan pursues as a country and the civilities and hospitalities Pakistanis as individuals may extend to influential Indians. Even Indians in authority make no distinction between courtesies they may receive from individual Pakistanis and the inflexibility of the Pakistan leadership's single-point aim- -hurting India and Indian interests by every means Pakistan can employ. India is thus confused as to how she is to counter Pakistan's animosity. The position on the Siachin Glacier currently illustrates the weakness of India's will. Although the glacier has been held by the Indian armed forces and, as far as one can make out, there is no decision yet to vacate by India the high altitude positions, recently the Doordarshan [Delhi TV] screened a sponsored feature film on Siachin, openly saying that these enterenched positions be vacated. The argument against keeping the Indian positions is justified on the currently fashionable ground that the glacier is being "polluted" by the requirement of keeping our jawans [soldiers] supplied with their necessities. The Government of India cannot hope to talk with the Pakistanis with any hope of progress if its own mind is befuddled by confusion. If the purpose is limited to averting an escalation, and the Government is prepared to pay for this the high price it is currently paying then the situation can only worsen. If the Government knows where it ought to draw the line and thereafter pursues a policy designed to bring home to the Pakistan rulers that attrition would also extract a price, probably unacceptable, from Pakistan, then the efforts to restore normal relations between the two neighbours would be meaningful. But to be able to pursue such a line the Government of India ought to know what it wants. At present this is not clear.

New Delhi Lodges Protest With Sri Lanka

BK0911155691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] India today lodged a protest with Sri Lanka for allowing the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, to use his official visit to Colombo to indulge in anti-Indian propaganda. India's deputy high commissioner in Colombo, Mr. Cherry George, handed over the note to a senior official in the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry. It protests against allowing the Pakistan premier to use the solemn occasion like the banquet hosted by the Sri Lankan president to rake up the Kashmir issue.

Spokesman Refutes Charges

BK1311160191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] India has expressed surprise over the statement of the Sri Lankan foreign minister on the postponed Colombo SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the reported statement of [Sri Lankan Foreign Minister] Mr. Harold Herath in the Sri Lankan parliament does not correctly reflect the developments which led to the postponement of the summit. The spokesman pointed out that the requirement of the presence of all heads of state or government at the summit is more than a matter of procedure or convenience. He said readiness to accept a substitute would have far-reaching consequences for SAARC, apart from discourtesy implied to the king of Bhutan. The Dhaka Declaration of 1985 is abundantly clear that the heads of government should arrive at unanimous decisions and meet periodically to promote trust and mutual confidence among the member nations.

Reiterating India's commitment to the furtherance of the objectives of SAARC, he said New Delhi looks forward to participate in the summit as and when fresh dates are announced.

Navy Captures 'Important' Tamil Tiger Documents

BK1011090891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] The naval authorities who seized an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] vessel off the Tamil Nadu coast on Friday say that they have captured important documents revealing the main LTTE supply line.

Talking to newsmen in Madras this morning, the naval officer in charge said that the documents included a diary written in Tamil listing out the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the main LTTE contacts, including some in Tamil Nadu. He said the vessel, which was captured after a hot chase, has sophisticated equipment, including radar and satellite navigation equipment normally used only in big ships. The vessel was accompanied by a smaller boat which was sunk during the naval operation. The captured vessel with 10 militants has been brought to Madras harbor. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered.

'High-Level' Saudi Delegation Arrives 12 Nov

BK1211132591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] A high-level Saudi delegation led by the minister for industry and electricity, Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, arrived in New Delhi today to participate in the third session of the Indo-Saudi joint commission for economic cooperation. The 36-member delegation includes more than 15 businessmen from Saudi Arabia.

Talking to newsmen on arrival, the Saudi minister said his country looks favorably at the economic reforms initiated by India.

Commission Discusses Trade Issues

BK1311163091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] India and Saudi Arabia have expressed a keen desire to expand economic and trade relations substantially. The India-Saudi joint commission meeting which began in New Delhi today discussed various proposals, including avoidance of double taxation and setting up of joint ventures, especially in petrochemicals in Saudi Arabia. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, led the Indian side, while the Saudi delegation was headed by the minister of industry and electricity, Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil.

Zimbabwe's Mugabe Arrives To Receive Award

MB1411093491 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0826 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] New Dehli Nov 14 SAPA—Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe arrived in New Delhi on Thursday to begin a three day state visit to India during which he will receive India's greatest honour, the Jawaharlal Nerhu Award, Zimbabwe's ZIANA news agency reports.

Hundreds of Indian nationals lined the 10km route from the airport to get a glimpse of the president who flew in from Berlin accompanied by Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, Industry and Commerce Minister Kumbirai Kangai and Transport Minister Dennis Norman.

On arrival at the Presidential Palace, Mr Mugabe was received by Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and inspected a guard of honour to the sounds of a 21-gun salute.

President Venkataraman will in the afternoon call on President Mugabe.

The Jawaharlal Nerhu Award is given for outstanding contribution to the promotion of international understanding, goodwill and friendship among the peoples of the world.

The award, which carries with substantial cash and a citation is made annually and is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, creed or sex.

The selection panel for the award announces each year's winner on November 14—Jawahar Lal Nehru's birth date.

Minister Urges Assistance on Kashmir Unrest

BK1311131691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The home minister has sought the help of all political parties to revive political activities in the Kashmir Valley. Addressing a meeting of the political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi this morning, Mr. S.B. Chavan asked the political leaders to come out with constructive ideas and suggestions to solve the present crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. He assured them that the center would be open in implementing their proposals.

Mr. Chavan stressed the need for efforts to involve the people in the restoration of normalcy by associating them with the developmental activities. Mr. Chavan said that the law and order and security situation in the state, particularly in the valley, is under constant threat by militants. Mr. Chavan expressed concern over the increased attacks by terrorists on security forces.

Mr. Chavan told the meeting of logistic support being provided by Pakistan to terrorists who are indulging in indiscriminate violence.

Our correspondent reports that the main aim of the meeting is to evolve a consensus on how to deal with the Kashmir issue. The meeting is also expected to deliberate on a fresh package and revival of the political process.

Meanwhile, the Coordination Committee on Kashmir has appealed to all the parties to approach the problem in a spirit of sympathy and understanding. In a press release, it stressed for early steps to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to have an elected government of their choice.

Politicians Criticize Pakistani Aid

BK1311131091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] In New Delhi today, the meeting of leaders of political parties from Jammu and Kashmir has expressed deep concern at the Pakistan's sponsored militant activities in the state. In a resolution adopted at the one-day meeting, the leaders appealed to the people of the state to stand united in this difficult time. They called for an all-out effort to strengthen the secular forces and said dialogue should be continued for the revival of the political process.

Addressing the meeting this morning, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, stressed the need for involving the people in the efforts to restore normalcy. Expressing concern at the law-and-order situation in the valley, Mr. Chavan said the security forces are continuously engaged in neutralizing the terrorist gangs. The home minister sought constructive ideas from the political parties to help solve the present crisis.

Resolution Rules Out Negotiations

BK1311153491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] All the political parties from Jammu and Kashmir have called for continuation of dialogue for reviving the political activities in the state. In a resolution adopted at the end of the one-day meeting in New Delhi today, they called upon the misguided youth to shun the path of violence and rejoin the political mainstream. The leaders underlined that the status of Kashmir is not negotiable and condemned Pakistan's attempts to create disorder in the state.

Appealing to the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh to stand united, the resolution said the threat of militancy can be met only by mobilizing the will of the people at large.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations, an official spokesman said that almost all the leaders asked the government to take steps to counter the disinformation campaign launched by the militants. They also called for creating conditions for the early return of migrants to the valley.

Gold Reserves Redeemed With Loan Repayment

BK0811163891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] The gold pledged by the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] with the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan has been redeemed fully. This was announced by the minister of state for finance, Mr. Rameshwar Thakur, at the economic editors conference in New Delhi today. He said the government has repaid the loan of $400 million taken in exchange for the gold. In reply to a question, Mr. Thakur said it is up to the RBI to retain the gold with these banks or to bring it back to the country. He said the RBI Act provides that the bank can keep 15 percent of its gold reserves abroad. Forty-six point nine tonnes of gold was pledged to the two foreign banks by the Chandra Shekhar government in the second week of June to overcome the difficult balance of payment position.

Balance of Payment Improves

BK1311160891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The Reserve Bank of India says the nation has recovered from the critical balance of payment situation and it is now time to consolidate with backup measures. The governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Mr. Venkitaramanan, said in Bombay that the foreign exchange reserves have doubled in two to three weeks with the measures by the bank and the union government. He said many measures are yet to be taken for boosting exports and earning foreign exchange. Referring to the criticism over the IMF and the World Bank loans to tide over the balance of payments crisis, Mr. Venkitaramanan said $64 billion debt is not as high as imagined.

Political Violence, Killings Continue

'Indefinite' Curfew in Varanasi

BK0911032691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, indefinite curfew has been imposed in six police station areas of Varanasi city after violent clashes. An official spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent this morning that five persons were killed and over 24 injured in incidents of brickbatting, hurling of bombs, and cross-firing last night. The trouble started when some miscreants stoned a religious procession near (Janganbari). The spokesman described the situation as tense but under control. Additional police force has been deployed in the city and a strict vigil is being kept on the situation.

Violence Responsible for 7 Deaths

BK1311161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, fresh violence was reported from the Varanasi city during the curfew relaxation period today. AIR [All-India Radio] Lucknow correspondent, quoting police sources, reports that seven persons were killed and about a dozen injured in incidents of stabbing, arson, and brick batting. Police resorted to firing to disperse a violent mob. An indefinite curfew has been clamped in eight police station areas of the city. Seventy persons have been taken into custody. Additional police force has been rushed to the city for maintaining law and order.

Strike Paralyzes Jammu

BK0911093891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] In Jammu, most of the shops are closed and public transport off the roads today in response to a bundh [strike] call by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad [All-India Students Council].

Our correspondent from Jammu reports that the bundh has been peaceful so far. The bundh call is given in support of certain demands, including setting up of an engineering, agriculture, veterinary colleges, and five more degree colleges in Jammu region. The parishad has also demanded setting up of separate councils for Jammu, Ladakh, and Kashmir regions.

Maoist Landmine Kills 9 Policemen

BK1111005491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] In Maharashtra, nine policemen were killed and 13 others were injured, some of them seriously, allegedly by Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] belonging to the People's War Group in a landmine explosion at Perumagauda village in Garchirauli District yesterday. According to police sources, the blast occurred when a platoon of the special reserve police force was proceeding from Perumeli to Bhamragarh to release (?a) party of jawans [soldiers] posted at an anti-Naxalite police outpost. All the injured have been admitted to the civil hospital at Aheri. Senior police officials have been rushed to the accident site. Further investigation is on.

This is the second major ambush carried out by the group during the last three years.

Several Killed in Punjab, Kashmir

BK1211161891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] In Punjab, timely detection of a bomb averted a disaster in the office of the vice chancellor of Gurunanak Dev University in Amritsar today. According to an official spokesman, six occupants of three cars were killed and three injured when militants fired at them at Amritsar District in another incident.

In Kashmir Valley, 14 militants and a security personnel were killed in terrorist violence during the last 24 hours. Eleven militants were killed and two others arrested when they tried to cross over to Pak-occupied Kashmir.

Kashmir 'Militants' Fire at Soldiers

BK1311160491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, militants indulged in heavy firing on security forces at two localities, resulting in the death of three civilians and injuring 11 persons, including eight security personnel. A Pakistan-trained militant and 14 suspected subversives were arrested by security forces during search operations in Baramula, Kupwara, and Srinagar Districts.

Tripura Election Candidate Killed

BK1411032891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] In Tripura, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] candidate for the by-election from Agartala Assembly seat, Mr. Shyam Hari Sharma, was killed by some unknown assailants yesterday evening in Agartala town. The state BJP leader, Mr. Brajesh Chakraborty, was seriously injured in the incident. He is now reported to be out of danger. The police have launched a combing operation to apprehend the culprits. Eight persons have been taken into custody in connection with the incident. The state chief minister, Mr. Sudhir Ranjan Majumdar, has condemned the incident.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Proposes Regional Ties

LD1411095491 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0738 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Nov (KUNA)—Iranian sources close to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani have revealed that his messages to the leaders of the Gulf states, recently conveyed by his envoys, included proposals to establish a joint regional market for economic and technical cooperation that would pave the way toward a comprehensive security agreement to include the countries on the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

In this connection, one of President Rafsanjani's advisers told SAWT AL-KUWAIT that the Iranian leadership considers the normalization of relations with Egypt to be an inevitable step in the consolidation of ties with the Gulf countries and the Arab world. Therefore 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi, the head of the Iranian interests section in Cairo, is continuing his behind-the-scenes consultations with Egyptian officials after his return from Tehran, where he held intensive discussions with President Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The president's adviser revealed that Rafsanjani defended his government's policy of consolidating relations with the Gulf states in a meeting held recently in the house of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution. At this meeting he launched a campaign against the hardliners who would like to isolate Iran from its surroundings and the world.

The president's adviser said Khamene'i showed some reservations about that policy, but Rafsanjani, as the head of the executive authority, emphasized that he would continue in his course of reconsidering the Iranian foreign policies of the previous stage.

SAWT AL-KUWAIT stated that the envoys of President Rafsanjani to the leaders of the Gulf states returned with messages from these leaders welcoming the invitation addressed to them to visit Tehran, and that they will respond to it as of December.

* New Governors Appointed in 10 Cities

92P40055A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 13 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] On behalf of the Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, the new governors for 10 of the nation's cities were appointed. 1. 'Abbas 'Ali Khani, Governor of Damghan 2. Davud Safa, Governor of Savojbalagh 3. Hoseyn Farrash-Khiyabani, Governor of Shahriyar 4. Mohammad 'Ali Morteja'i, Governor of Savadkuh 5. 'Ali Akbari, Governor of Torbat-e Jam 6. Ebrahim Esma'ilzadeh, Governor of Shahin-Dezh 7.

Hoseyn 'Avazvardi, Governor of Lamard 8. Siyavosh Zulnuriyan, Governor of Neyriz 9. Seyyed 'Ali Khosravi, Governor of Eqlid 10. Karam Reza Piriya'i, Governor of Darrehshahr

Mohajerani Denies Tehran Seeks Nuclear Weapons

LD1311172191 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—Iran today rejected the propaganda of the Western media that it was after obtaining nuclear weapons as "a premeditated plot."

Vice President for Parliamentary Affairs Ata'ollah Mohajerani refuted remarks attributed to him that Iran was trying to gain access to unconventional weapons, describing it "a propaganda ploy and a psychological warfare waged by the U.S. and the West against Iran." He said the Islamic Republic has never been after gaining unconventional and mass-destruction weapons, since it is in apparent contradiction with its Islamic ideology which promotes peace for the cause of the human being and the society. "Iran itself is a victim of unconventional weapons, and our people are victims of Iraqi chemical arms," he said, and regretted that nobody had paid attention to this issue due to the U.S. and Western support for Iraq.

Mohajerani reiterated that Iran was in no way after obtaining nuclear and unconventional arms, adding that any remark or attribution not complying with "this clear and firm stance" would be invalid.

Commentary on U.S., USSR, Turkish 'Plots'

NC1111060591 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 Nov 91 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "A Chain of Plots"]

[Text] Simultaneous with the arrival in Tehran of a high-level PRC delegation led by the country's President Yang Shangkun, THE WASHINGTON POST, citing U.S. officials, claimed that the U.S. Government has reached the conclusion that Iran is definitely moving toward the production of nuclear weapons and the PRC is providing training and technical assistance and technology.

In the past few months, the West, with its propaganda pressure and threats against Iraq, has now turned its attention to the Islamic Revolution and it appears that this stems from the convocation of the Tehran conference and Iran's intense opposition to the Madrid conference for the surrender of Palestine. Other newspapers endorsing this are PRAVDA and THE NEW YORK TIMES, which wrote: Iran has opened up a new front against Israel's interests.

The series of plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran has been completed with Turkey's cooperation. Following his victory in parliamentary elections, Suleyman Demirel, leader of the Turkish True Path Party, proclaimed that the new government is declaring war against those helping the opposing Kurdish guerrillas. This is after Turkey insinuated on many occasions in the past that Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon are supporting these guerrillas.

In any case, after the Cypriot vessel carrying a consignment of goods destined for Iran was impounded and accusations against Iran regarding the production of nuclear weapons were leveled, it appears that since Iran refused to bow down before the West's and particularly the United States' new international world order in the Middle East, it is the next target of the U.S. onslaught.

Iran should establish a united anti-imperialist front on the regional level from among the countries opposed to the various policies of the West, particularly the United States. It should accelerate its support of the Muslim revolutionary forces by inflicting blows on their interests, thus preventing centralization of the reactionary and Western forces in the region against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Khamene'i Pardons 260 Prisoners in Kurdestan

LD1411090291 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdestan Prov., Nov. 14, IRNA—Some 260 prisoners sentenced by the Islamic Revolutionary Courts of the province have been pardoned by leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said here Wednesday.

Ayatollah Yazdi said that according to the decree of the leader 260 prisoners have either been pardoned or their sentences commuted.

The ayatollah also in a meeting with the local judiciary officials discussed issues related to the Shi'ite and Sunni Friday prayers leaders and religious leaders of Kurdestan and West Azerbaijan provinces.

Praising the trend of establishment of security in the province, the judiciary head called on local officials to prepare a list of those prisoners eligible for pardon so that necessary actions will be taken.

Gharazi: Telecommunications University To Open

NC1211165191 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Nov 91 p 14

[Report by correspondent in East Gilan]

[Text] The preliminaries for establishing an independent telecommunications university in Iran are under way. While announcing this information, Post, Telegraph and Telephones Minister Engineer Gharazi told our correspondent: The preliminary studies on constructing the university are in the planning stages and next year the telecommunications university will be inaugurated with the enrollment of students.

He added: One trillion rials will be invested in the country's telecommunications system and 500 new telephone numbers will be allotted to applicants who have been given receipts.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has envisaged the launching of its own special satellite to provide its own mobile networks in the major cities. This will bring the level of the country's telecommunications system to that of developed countries.

He stressed: Among the other measures to be implemented under the telecommunications expansion program are: the use of some smaller satellites called "SAT"; the use of 20,000 km of fiber optics in order to set up a long-distance network, without the use of the mobile telephones in the main cities; and the setting up of a paging systems network.

Velayati Proposes Ban on Foreign AIDS Carriers

LD1211205191 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Tuesday proposed banning the entry into Iran of foreign nationals suspected of carrying AIDS virus unless they produce valid health certificates.

"This can be done through cooperation between the foreign affairs and health ministries," Velayati, who is a pediatrician told an annual meeting of Iranian pediatricians. He also said that those afflicted with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome are susceptible to tuberculosis because of the destruction of their bodies' immunity system.

He said tuberculosis, which had been fully eliminated in developed countries and partially in Third World, was now coming back mainly because of the spread of AIDS. Research conducted in developed and Third World countries on tuberculosis showed that those AIDS victims developed tuberculosis whose bodies had already contained the disease virus, he said.

Some 41 articles would be presented and lectures would be delivered by prominent physicians during the three day meeting which opened at Firuzgar Hospital in Tehran today.

Pakistan

Qatari Official Comments on Jammu-Kashmir Issue

BK1211160491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistan and Qatar have expressed the hope that a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir problem will be based on the UN resolution. This was stated in a joint communique issued in Islamabad today at the end of the official visit to Pakistan of Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the crown prince of Qatar and defense minister. The Qatari leader expressed the hope that understandings between India and Pakistan will increase to achieve this objective. This will lead to the strengthening of international peace and security.

Both sides emphasized the need for an immediate and just political solution to the Afghan problem which respects the sovereignty of the brotherly Afghan people and which enables the Afghan refugees to return to their homeland in dignity and safety. In this connection, both sides expressed support for the efforts of the UN secretary general to solve the problem.

Both sides hoped that the concerned parties will reach a just settlement through dialogue in the current international conference on the Middle East.

On bilateral relations, both sides emphasized the need to further promote existing cooperation. They referred to the need to promote cooperation in the field of energy, especially the supply of natural gas to Pakistan. Both sides also decided to further expand trade ties by increasing bilateral trade.

The Qatari crown prince called on the president in Islamabad today and held talks with him on matters of mutual interest.

Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the Qatari crown prince and defense minister, was given a warm sendoff when he left Islamabad for home this evening. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif was among those who saw him off at the airport.

Prime Minister Welcomes Iranian Mediation Offer

LD1211111191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has welcomed the Islamic Republic of Iran's offer to mediate between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue. Emphasizing Pakistan's readiness to extend any kind of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] to resolve the 44-year-long Kashmir dispute, Nawaz Sharif lauded the stand adopted by the IRI in respect to the Kashmir issue. Pakistan favors a referendum in Kashmir, and India rejects any talks on the sovereignty of that territory.